

THE
FOOL OF QUALITY;

OR, THE
HISTORY
OF
HENRY EARL OF MORELAND.

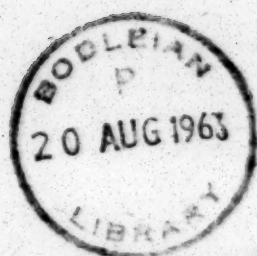
IN FIVE VOLUMES.

By MR BROOKE.

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CHAP. XVII.

THE HISTORY OF A REPROBATE.

I KNOW not, Gentlemen, said he, who my parents were. I was found, when an infant, wrapped in rags on a cobbler's bulk, in Westminster. The parish-officers sent me to the poor-house; and, when I was capable of instruction, they sent me to the charity-school.

When I had learned to read and write, I was bound, for a servant, to Mr Skinner, a neighbouring attorney. My mistress

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grew fond of me ; she was a very holy woman ; she taught me my prayers and catechism, and made me read to her every night, and repeat chapters and psalms, till I had nearly got half the Bible by rote.

As my master used to send me on many errands and messages, and to entrust me with little matters of money on such occasions, on finding me always punctual and honest to him, he began to love me almost as much as my good mistress did.

But now came on my first falling away from all goodness. I was about twelve years old, when, in a cursed hour, my master sent me to a distant part of the town, with a bill to pay some money, and bring to him back the change. The change amounted to about four pounds in glittering silver. It appeared a mint of money. I never had been in possession of so large a heap ; and I sighed, and said to myself, how blessed must they be who are become the rich owners of so much money ! then some one seemed to whisper me that I was the owner ; and again some one seemed to whisper me, that I was not the owner. Then I would go forward toward my master ; and again I would stop and go aside. Then I would

thrust my hand into my pocket, and feel the greatness of my treasure, then turn to the wall, and lay the brightness of it before my eyes. Then I would run a piece off, as hurried away by the force of the temptation; and again I would delay, and stop; and turn, and strive to force myself homeward; till, what with doubting and delaying, and struggling off and on, and going backward and forward, I considered, that if I went home, I should now get nothing but blame and beating: and so I took a head, and ran into the country as fast as my feet could carry me.

As I ran myself out of breath, from time to time, I would look back and look back, and run on and run on, in the thought that my master, or some one from him, was at my heels. But often since, I have reflected, and was persuaded in my mind, that my kind master and mistress had not the least suspicion of me, but rather inquired and sorrowed after me, as being murdered or kidnapped from them; and this also was, at times, a great grief of heart to me.

When I was quite tired and jaded, and night came on, I turned up to a sorry kind of an inn, or rather alehouse, which I happened to be near. But as I feared

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every thing, I had the cunning to conceal my treasure, and taking a penny from my pocket, I begged the woman of the house, for that and charity's sake, to give me a little bread and milk, and some hole to lie in.

Having finished my supper, I was shewn to a kind of hovel under the stairs, where, throwing myself on some straw with a piece of a blanket over me I fell fast as a rock. Awakening, however, about midnight, or somewhat after, and seeing all dark about me, and no creature near hand, I began to tremble greatly ; and then I wished to say my prayers ; but I did not dare to pray, and so I lay sweating and trembling, and trembling and sweating, till the dawning of the day brought some relief to my spirits.

Having breakfasted at the cost of a second penny, I set out, though not with my former speed : for, reflecting that I had not my livery on, but a small frock-coat, I was under the less fear of being known. However, I pushed on as well as I was able wanting still to get as far from danger as possible. And indeed I hoped, by going on still further and further, to get away from my own fears and from my own conscience.

O, Gentlemen ! what misery did I not endure at that season ! The trust I had in my treasure began now to abate, the dread of losing also brought new troubles upon me ; peace was banished from within me, and without there was no place whereto I might fly for rest.

On the fifth morning of my travels, having expended what halfpence and small silver I had, I took out half a crown, and offered it to the man of the house, desiring him to return what was over the reckoning. As he took it, he gave me a look that I thought went through me, and continuing to stare me in the face, he shamed me so, that I was constrained to run aside. He gave me the change, however, and I set forward on my journey, all trembling, and apprehending I knew not what.

I had not gone above a mile, when meeting a dirty road, I turned over a stile that led to a path through the fields. Here I walked on a little way, when, turning, I saw my landlord making long strides after me ; whereupon my heart beat, and my knees grew so weak under me that I stood as still as a stone.

He came quickly up with me, and, seizing me by the neck, he cast me on my back. Ha ! you young rogue, says

he, let us see what money you have got. Then, diving into my pockets, he pulled out the whole stock in which I had trusted for happiness. O, you little dog of a villain, from whom have you stolen all this treasure? But I must go and return it to the right owner. O good Sir, good Sir, I roared out, will you not leave me a little? ever so little, dear Sir, to keep me from starving? But he was deaf to my cries and prayers, and away he went.

Hope, the last comfort of the miserable, now forsook me. I cursed, at my heart, the day on which I was born; and I lay a long time, as one who had no use for limbs, or any further way to travel upon earth. At length I broke out into shouts, and a great gush of tears, and having got some ease by venting my sorrows, I rose, by a kind of instinct, and went on I knew not whither.

Growing hungry after noon, I would willingly have begged the charity of passengers, but this I did not dare to do, for fear they should ask me whence I came, and who I was, and whereto I was going; questions to which I could give no very honest answer. So I bore my hunger as well as I could, till coming at night to a hovel where a farmer kept his pigs,

I made way for myself among them, and slept in the straw till morning.

The day following, as I passed slowly and half famished through a small village, my eye caught at a penny-loaf that lay on a little shop-window that jutted into the street. I looked here and there, and peered into the shop, and was just going to seize the ready and tempting spoil; when something whispered at my heart, Do not touch it for your life, starve, starve, rather than offer to steal any more; and so I tore myself away, and running as fast as I could, for fear of turning back, I at last got clear off from the reach of this temptation.

When I had travelled something farther, I got into an inclosed country, where there were hedges on every side, with plenty of haws and bramble-berries on every bush. And here I filled my belly with berries to serve me for dinner; and I stuffed my pockets with haws against I should want. Upon this I grew wonderful glad that I had not taken the loaf; and peace again began to come upon my mind; and, about night-fall, having reached a copse on one side of the road, I crept, like a hare, under the shelter of the bushes; I then supped on my haws, after which I kneeled down, and half ven-

tured at a prayer to God, and gathering up in my form, I slept happily till morning.

Having lived thus for some days, I came into an open country, where there was scarce any path, nor any haw or berry within many a mile. I now began to grow sick and faint with hunger; and again my sickness went off, and I became so greedy and ravenous, that I was ready to eat my own flesh from the bones. Soon after, I spied, at a distance, a confused heap of something at the root of a great tree that grew in the open fields. I made up to it in expectation of I knew not what, and found an old beggar-man fast asleep in his patched cloak, with a bundle of somewhat lying beside him.

Instantly I opened his little baggage, when, to my inexpressible transport, a large luncheon of brown bread, with some halfpence, struck my eyes. I did not hesitate a moment about seizing the bread, for I could no more withstand the cravings of my appetite at the time, than I could withstand a torrent rushing down a hill. Having appeased my stomach, I began to demur about what I should do with the remainder of the bread, and felt a motion or two incli-

ning me to leave it behind me ; but, " No, " said I to myself, this is all the bread that " I have, or may ever have during life, " and I know not where to get a bit " in the whole world ; besides, I do this " man no harm in taking it away, since I " leave him money enough wherewith to " buy more." So I put the bread in my pocket, and went on my way, leaving behind me about four or five pence in the wrapper.

I had not gone far, however, before I said to myself again, " This man is a beggar by trade, and gets halfpence from every passenger that goes the road. But alas, no one living has any pity upon me ; and so to starve alive, or take the money, is all the question." So saying or so thinking, I went back on tiptoes, and stooping and seizing my prey, I flew away like lightning.

As soon as I had got out of the reach and sight of the poor man, the first motion I felt was the joy of having such a prize ; but I had not gone far till this joy was much abated, my sighs began to heave, and my tears to flow apace.

That night, I took up my lodging in a waste hut that lay a little way off the road. But though, as I thought, I had plenty of bread, and money enough

about me ; yet I found myself exceeding heavy, and I was not able to pray, as I did the foregoing nights.

During all this time, I neither knew where I was nor whereto I was going, nor any thing more of my travels, than that I came from London. When I had spent to my last penny, and was walking, slow and melancholy, on a by-path that led through some woody lawns, I heard the voice of merriment, and, quickly after, perceived a group of gipsies that came from behind some trees.

As I saw that I could not escape them, I gathered courage, and went forward, when, coming up, they stopped and eyed me with much attention, and made a ring about me. Where are you going, my child ? says a man with a broad girdle and a very formidable beard. Indeed, Sir, said I, I cannot tell. And where did you come from then ? From London, Sir, so please you. From London, child ? why, that is a very great way off. And pray what made you leave London ? To get away from my master. But I hope you did not come away empty, you brought something from him, did not you ? Some little matter, good Sir, but I was robbed of it on the way. Hereupon, this venerable regent smiled, and, turning to his

dependents, As far as I see, said he, this chap will answer our purpose to a hair.

Here one of the females asked if I was hungry ; and on my answer in the affirmative, they all invited me with a jovial air to dinner. We then turned a distance off from the path wherein we had met, and gradually descended into one of the pleasantest spots in the world. It was a dell surrounded with hills, some of which were flanting, some headlong and impending, and all covered or spotted with groups of trees, of different heights, sorts, and colours; through which there descended a gurgling rivulet, which, having rolled over stones and pebbles, grew silent in a small lake, that reflected the circling objects from the hills around.

Immediately nature's carpet was covered with a large cloth of fine damasked linen. The baggage was taken from the shoulders of the bearers ; and, before I well could observe what they were about, there was spread, as by art-magic, before my eyes, the most various and sumptuous banquet I had ever beheld. Down instantly sunk the guests ; some sitting, like the Turks, cross-legged ; while others lolled, like the Romans, beside each other.

As they had travelled far that day, they all eat in silence ; and, in a short space, the burden of the luggage-carriers was pretty much lightened. In the mean time, some arose, and unladed two asses of the creels which they carried. The cloth then was quickly emptied of the cold fowls and baked meats, with the loins of beef and mutton ; and leather jacks, that contained plenty of the best wines and other liquors, were set before us. These again were decanted into clean japanned pitchers ; and a japanned cup, of equal measure, was given into every hand.

Then began mirth and jollity to flow round with the cups ; never did I see so pleasant, so gleeful a company. Joke and banter, without offence, were bandied from every side, and bursts of laughter were echoed from the answering hills.

As soon as I was warmed, and my heart opened by what I drank, they all expressed a liking and kindness for me, and requested that I would tell them my story without disguise. Accordingly I made an ingenious confession of all the matters related. But, instead of meeting those reproofs which I expected for my wickedness, they jointly began to ridicule my scruples, and put to shame the little shame that I had of my evil deeds.

My child, said their ancient governor, when you have been a sufficient time with us, you will then learn what it is to be wise and to be happy. You will then know that religion is nothing but hypocrisy or fashion. There are thousands and ten thousands of religions upon earth, all contrary, and fighting the one against the other. People pretend to fear God, when it is the fear of the laws alone that is before their eyes. God is not to be feared, but to be loved, my son, for he is a very gracious and a bountiful God. He gave the heavens, in common, to the birds of the air: He gave the seas and rivers also in common to the fishes; and he gave this whole earth in common to mankind. But great people, and people of power, have seized it all to themselves, and they have made to themselves possessions and properties by fences and inclosures; and they have again inclosed these inclosures by laws of their own making, whereby the poor are to be punished, when they attempt to reclaim any part of the natural rights with which God hath gifted them. But when the poor, without fear of the laws, can gain any thing from the rich and the mighty, who have robbed them of their rights, they may surely do it with a safe and

and honest conscience. And now know, my child, that you are come among those who, of all people, can best defend you, and make you happy. We are of that sort of the poor who are above the rich and the mighty, by being above the laws; for they can frame no laws which are of any more force to us than the web of a spider.

So spoke this formidable sage; and indeed, Gentlemen, however strange it may seem, I saw the latter part of his assertion fully verified by practice. I continued among this very singular and wonderful people near the space of three years; during which time they initiated me into all the arts and mysteries of their manifold iniquities. No fetters could hold them; no prisons could contain them; no bolts or locks could secure the treasure of the wealthy from them. By the means of spells or certain odours, as it were by enchantment, all beasts became subject to them; the wildest horse would stand for them; the fiercest mastiffs did not dare to bay or growl at them; so that all bleaching-grounds, yards, and gardens, were as open to their invasion as the high way. They assumed all shapes, and almost all sizes. They became visible and invisible, known or unknown at pleasure;

for every different dress they had a different countenance and set of features ; so that there daily intimates could not know them, except by appointed words or tokens. And thus, without violence or apparent fraud, without bustle, indictment, or accusation on any side, they over-ruled the government, and held, as it were, the purses of the whole nation in their hands.

You will wonder, Gentlemen, by what policy these people could maintain their influence and depredations, undetected, throughout the kingdom. I will account for this matter as clearly and as briefly, as I can.

Though they never appeared by day, except single, or in small parties of ten or fifteen at most, yet they kept their state entire, by quick and constant intelligence. Beside their prince, or principal potentate, who was the person that first accosted me, they had a deputy-governor for every shire ; and, at convenient distances, houses of common resort for the fraternity. Here their victuals were dressed, and their provisions laid in ; and here also were deposited the spoils of the public, which, when converted into money, was locked in a strong box, one tenth for the use of the society on any emergency, and

the other nine for the benefit of the spoilers, in proportion to their respective ranks and merits.

Before we rose from our late-mentioned festival, an ancient female fortune-teller chucked me under the chin, and said, Do you know, my dear, where this same kind landlord lives, who robbed you of your money? All I know, said I, is, that he lives in a little town, at the sign of a white cross, and near to a great windmill. What, cried one of the men, my old host Jerry Gruff? He hates that any except himself should prosper by their ingenuity. I owe that fellow a fling, cried another, for once attempting to circumvent me in his own house. Well, my lad, says Geoffry, the old governor, his house lies directly in the way of our circuit; and, for your encouragement, I promise you that he shall refund you every penny of the money he took from you.

The luggage being now up, we went back on the field-path by which I came; and coming to a great road, we divided into small parties, who were appointed to meet at therendezvous, where we supped merrily, and slept soundly for that night.

We set out the next morning by dawn of day, and entering soon after upon a common, we saw a parcel of horses feed-

ing without a keeper. Immediately three of the likeliest were taken from the rest. Out came scissars, and other implements, with phials of colouring essences, and to work went many hands, when, in less than five minutes, had the owners come up, thy could not have found a single mark of their own property upon them. And indeed I have frequently known some of those my ingenious brotherhood so very audacious as to sell in public market the cattle which they had stolen to the very persons from whom they were taken.

As these people were never unprovided of their conveniencies, the horses were quickly bridled, and dispatched, by several emissaries, several ways, to summon the neighbouring brotherhood, on the third night, to meet near the white cross with their appointed apparatus.

Accordingly, on the evening of the night required, we arrived on a little hill that stood opposite to the house of my conscientious landlord; and soon after, we were joined by several parties, from several sides, amounting to about a hundred and twenty persons, with parcels of I knew not what upon asses, &c.

The packs were quickly opened, and from thence were produced black and

flame-coloured gowns, flambeaux, hoofs, and horns, and vizards of horrid aspect and terrific dimension. In a hurry, we were all fitted with our respective dresses and characters. A large pasteboard coffin was covered with a white sheet, and exalted upon the shoulders of four fiery devils; and, as night began to fall dark and heavy upon us, a light was struck, the flames were lighted, one was put into every right hand; speaking-trumpets, with other instruments of heart-sinking sounds, were put to many a mouth, and we directly set out on our diabolical procession. Some roared like bulls, others howled and bayed like dogs at a midnight moon, while others yelled articulately in the caterwauling gibberish; in short, the sounds made such a complication of horrors as no mortal ears could abide, nor mortal courage support.

Meanwhile the town took the alarm, and began to be in commotion. Old and young quitted their houses, and hurried hither and thither through the street. But, as we advanced, they made backward, and running, or climbing, or scrambling up the hill, they gathered all in a body before the windmill. In the interim, we pushed forward, and entered the inn where neither cat nor dog, nor living

creature was left, save Goodman Gruff, who lay impotent of the gout in an upper chamber.

While most of the company staid routing and searching the house below, Signior Geoffry led a few of us up stairs. He represented the person of Lucifer, whose name was impressed in flaming characters on his cap. On entering the room where landlord Gruff lay, Hark ye, Jerry, says Lucifer, you sneaking thief, you mean petty larceny villain ! how came you to rob a child, the other day, of the money which he gained under my influence and encouragement ? I have a mind, you scoundrel, to strike you out of my list of innkeepers. O, my good Lord Lucifer, cries Gruff, with a trembling voice, in my conscience, now, I did not think that any kind of robbery would be an offence to your honour. You lie, you rascal, you lie, cries Lucifer, the devil is a gentleman, he loves those that rob the great, who have robbed the little ; but he hates your low-spirited scoundrels, who rob the widow and the fatherless, and take from the little ones the little that they have. Why, pray, my Lord Lucifer, are you a Christian ? cries Gruff. A better one, rascal, than you or any of your tribe ; for tho' I tremble, yet I believe.

And I tell thee, Jerry, that I will make this generation to tremble; but, as I think, the devil himself cannot bring them to believe.

During this confabulation the whole house, drawers and all, was gutted as clean as a fowl for supper. So, without entering into any other habitation, away we marched, as in our former tremendous procession; till coming to some standing water we halted, and, at a given word, we altogether plunged our torches in the pool, and instant night fell upon all the world.

Thus, from day to day, and year to year, while I continued with this people, I was witness to a variety of flights, deceits, impostures, metamorphoses, and depredations, without any instance of their being brought to condign punishment. One of them, however, within my time, was detected, taken, imprisoned, brought to the bar, tried, and brought in guilty; and yet found means to evade justice by the most marvellous piece of stratagem that ever was.

He was spied in the act of stealing a bay horse. Fresh suit was made. He was seized, and loaded with irons in the dungeon of the county-goal. On the day of trial the fact was proved by in-

contestable witnesses; and the jury, without quitting the box, pronounced the fatal word, *Guilty*. Have you any thing to say, cried the judge, why sentence of death should not be pronounced against you? I can truly affirm, exclaimed the culprit, that I am as clear as the light of this matter; that the beast which I took, then was, and, to this hour, is my own property, and that there must be some wonderful mistake in this business; wherefore, my Lord, as I am upon life and death, I trust that your charitable indulgence will order this same horse to be brought into court. The horse accordingly was brought, and the culprit continued, Now, my Lord, be pleased to order the witnesses to say, whether this be the same horse that I stole or not? The same, the same, cried the witnesses, by virtue of our oaths. Be so good then, my Lord, to ask them of what age this horse was at the time that I stole him. By virtue of the same oath, four years old, rising five. Now, my Lord, if you will continue your gracious indulgence be pleased to order his mouth to be examined by some people skilled in such matters. This also was done by two or three jockeys of acknowledged judgment, who instantly cried out, Why, my

Lord, this horse is quite passed mark of mouth.

Hereupon every person that was present looked astonished, and silence was in court for some minutes ; till the culprit resumed : There is but one request more with which I shall trouble your Lordship ; it is, that you would be pleased to send and examine whether this same horse be a horse or mare. This lastly was done, when the examiners cried out A mare, my Lord, a mare, without any question !

Here the surprise and amazement of the court was redoubled. The jury looked down abashed ; the witnesses slunk away in utter shame and confusion ; and his Lordship instantly ordered, that the prisoner should be dismissed without fees, and that the mare should be restored to him as his proper goods.

Now, the whole mystery of the affair was merely this, that some of the fraternity, the very night before the trial, had picked the lock of the stable, and, in the place of the horse, had substituted this mare, which they found or formed to so perfect a resemblance of him, that no eye could discern the smallest distinction.

During my sojourn with these wretches, may it please your honours, I found by

dear experience, that between the birth and the grave, there are but two sorts of happiness of which man is capable. The one is, that of a "conscience void of giving offence;" the other is, that of a "conscience that cannot be offended." I was therefore perpetually miserable, because neither the one nor the other was my state: for, on the one hand, I was conscious that I gave daily offence to God and man; and, on the other hand, my conscience was daily offended thereby. I was merry, indeed, though not happy, when in company, but ever dejected when left alone; so that, during my three years incorporation with this fraternity, I never once lifted my heart in any appeal to God, nor ventured to petition for any kind of favour from him.

Though these reprobates, as I have intimated, continued to perpetrate, and to glory, with a merry and satisfied conscience, in their daily iniquities, yet hitherto they had not proceeded to blood.

On the night wherein I left them we were overtaken, and cut short of our intended rest, by a sudden and violent tempest of wind and hail, whereupon we took shelter in a waste barn.

When he had struck a light, we set together what straw and combustibles we could find in the house, and had just kindled a fire, when one of the company came and whispered that there was a man asleep in the far corner. Hereupon they took the candle, and, with soft and cautious steps found a pedlar stretched along with his head on a wisp of straw, and his box close beside him. They immediately lifted the box, and brought it away, in silence, to the place where I was sitting. On opening it with as little noise as possible, they found therein a large quantity of silks, linens, and laces, with a rich variety of hardwares; and at the bottom, a little padlocked chest, full of English and Spanish pieces of gold, in all likelihood the whole amount of the labours of his life.

This was a prize not to be thrown down the stream. Immediately all was in a kind of underbreathing bustle, and whispering commotion. The great question was, how to possess themselves of such a prey with safety to their persons. It was objected, that the man might waken, they were unluckily seen coming that way, and, it may be, entering into that house; the country might be alarmed,

and rise upon them ; they might be overtaken ; they might be seized in the very fact.

At length a bold villain proposed directly to cut his throat, and that then there could be no witness to testify against them ; but to this it was again objected, that the blood itself would be the fearfullest and surest of all witnesses. Whereupon, another proposed to suffocate or strangle him, and bury his corpse on the spot ; to which scheme, though many were silent, yet no one expressly excepted.

During this deadly consultation, notwithstanding my long course of evil habit, and evil example, my blood curdled throughout my body, and fear, horror, and detestation arose in my bosom. But when they went, as I supposed, to put the deed of death into instant execution, I crouched and shrunk inward, and creeping out at the door, the dread of being also seized and murdered, gave me strength to get on my feet, and, feeling along by the wall, I got away from the house, and made off, I neither knew nor cared whither,

The tempest still continued ; the driving of the clouds added to the natural horrors of night, I could scarcely discern that I had a road under my foot. But

though I could not see my pursuers, I yet feared that their eyes were better than mine ; and I still turned and listened, to try if the foot of the murderer was behind me.

Having travelled all night as fast and far as I could from the scene of my terrors, on the rising of the day I saw a large town before me, and, for the first time of three years, I lifted up my eyes, and inwardly blessed God for his mercy in my escape from so great a wickedness. Thereupon I felt a pleasure that I had never felt before ; and I said in my heart, If you will once more be my God, I will be your true servant, and will never offend or transgress any more.

I then walked on leisurely ; my fatigue went from me, and I seemed quite lightsome to myself. On entering the suburbs, I met a gentleman taking his morning's walk out of town. I stopped and looked him wistfully in the face, whereupon he also stopped and eyed me with much attention. Who are you, my pretty lad ? says he. An unhappy stranger, Sir, who wants a service, or any means of earning a little honest bread. And pray what service can you do ? Not much, Sir, I fear, but my good-will shall strive hard to make up

my lack of ability. Then, cried he, you shall be my servant. All the servants I ever had, promised every thing, but did little; I will now try what may be done by one who promises nothing. What is your name, my boy? David Doubtful, Sir! for that was my true name, though I had gone by several others. And what wages must I give you, David? Just as much, Sir, or as little as you shall please to think I deserve.

Here he took me to a handsome house, where he kept a mercer's shop in Plymouth. His name was Felton; he had been a widower of some years, and had an only son, who was then at Westminster-school in London.

My master, at first, set me to the most servile and vile offices, such as cleaning his and the servants shoes; sweeping the street before his door, and carrying out the dirt of the house; but all this I did with willingness, and even with pleasure, as some little matter of penance for my long course of evil-deeds.

On my separating from my brethren in iniquity, as I have told you, I was the proprietor of one hundred and seventy odd pounds, which was locked up in the common chest, being my allotted dividend of the fruits of our knavery, for

three successive years ; but in my present turn of mind, I would no more have accepted any part thereof than I would have taken a bar of red-hot iron into my hand. I had also in my pocket a few crowns, with some smaller silver ; but these I secretly distributed among the poor, that no part, as it were, of Achan's accursed thing might remain about me.

In about three weeks, my master again changed the whole manner of my service, and set me to brush his clothes, dress his wigs, whet his knives, lay the cloth, and attend at table ; but these were matters in which I was quite expert, as I had not yet forgotten my employment with my first master.

In some time after, Mr Felton asked me if I could read ? A little in the Bible, Sir, said I. And can you write, too, David ? If you please I will try, Sir, Why, David ! this beats the hand of my clerk ; where in the world did you come by all this learning ? From a very good master to a very bad servant. But pray, Sir, do not inquire the particulars of my naughtiness ; for, indeed, you could not desire a severer monitor than my own conscience is to me. Well, my child, said the good man, I will not put

you to pain ; and so giving me a squeeze by the hand, he went out with a glistening eye.

From this time my master shewed an uncommon respect and attention to me. He discharged me from all the menial offices of his household ; he gave me his burdens of silks, and other wares, to carry to his several customers ; and he desired me to take particular notice of the natures and values of what I carried.

On this encouragement I became vastly more apprehensive and assiduous than he looked for. I attended the shop closely, and took notice and private notes of all that was estimated or transacted therein. My master looked quite amazed, on asking me some questions with respect to his affairs. His eldest apprentice, soon after, set up for himself. He then placed me behind the counter, over his younger apprentice, and in joint authority with his journeyman. And, soon after, he gave me the key of his till, and the trust of all his treasure. I now dined with him at the same table, and consulted and conversed with him as his friend and companion. He frequently gave me pocket-money, which, he told me, he would not charge to the account of my wages. I walked with him every

evening, went to church with him every Sunday, and read to him in the Bible every night. I was now wholly reconciled to my God, and felt him in my soul as a friend and benefactor. Pleasure played about my heart, peace lay under my pillow; and my happiness seemed as a ship that, after a long and desperate voyage, had anchored in a calm and secure haven.

I had now been something upward of a year in the service of Mr Felton, when one day I heard a bustling noise in the street, and saw people running hither and thither across the window. I stepped to the door, and looking to the left, saw a great croud about a cart, wherein were five criminals going to execution. I staid till they came just opposite to me, when, to my utter astonishment and terror, I saw five of my old acquaintance, and, in the front of them, the bloody villain who had proposed cutting the throat of the unfortunate pedlar. Instantly I turned all pale as my shirt, and, dreading that they would know and claim acquaintance with me, I shrunk in, and running backward, threw myself half fainting into a chair.

I now reflected, that it was happy for me no one was in the shop to take no-

tice of my confusion ; and endeavouring to assume some courage, on the entrance of our journeyman, I put on the most unconcerned appearance that I could.

Mr Felton happened to dine abroad that day, and did not return till the cloth was laid for supper. He took his chair at table, and desired me to sit beside him. David, said he, is it not wonderful that people should continue so incredulous, notwithstanding the frequent and daily proofs of an all-seeing and an all detecting Providence ? If a sparrow falls not to the ground without the notice of our God, how much more will he take account of the life of him whom he formed in his own image ? The villain trusts to hide his villany, and dares to affirm (with the first murderer) in the face of God and of man, " I know not " where is my brother." But blood has a voice, a crying voice, David ; it cries aloud to heaven, from the very bowels of the earth. No depth can cover it, no darkness can conceal it, for the light that shineth in darkness will bring it forth to the day.

About twelve months ago, a pedlar was murdered in a waste house called Fielding's barn. The murderers were of the people whom they call *Gipsies*, the most

subtle and evasive of all sorts of reprobates, so that the fact lay a long time in silence. This pedlar, it seems, had an only brother, to whom the reversion of his substance belonged; and his brother, not seeing or hearing from him of a long time, went through the whole country, and through many parts of the kingdom, inquiring after him. At length he arrived, one evening, at an inn some miles from hence, where he found in the kitchen seven men jovially seated over a bowl of punch; he quickly accepted their invitation, and having spent the time pleasantly, and the house being thronged, he and one of the company were shewn to the same bed.

About midnight his companion began to moan most piteously, when, jogging and asking him why he groaned? O, Fielding's barn! he cried, Fielding's barn! Fielding's barn! Again, he cried, You cannot say it; you cannot say that my hand was in the murder. Again, he would mutter, with a half-smothered voice, See, see how he struggles, see how he kicks; put, put him out of pain, O put him out of pain.

Hereupon the brother rose, and dressed as quietly as possible, and making away to the next magistrate, here turned, sei-

zed, and carried off his bed-fellow, before any of his comrades were apprised of the matter.

What have you done you villain; said the magistrate without preface; what have you done with the body of the pedlar whom you murdered in Fielding's barn; On this question, the wretch, thinking that all was detected, instantly fell on his knees. I had neither hand nor heart in the murder, Sir, he cried, and, if you will get me a pardon, I will faithfully tell you the whole affair. On his confession, the five principal rogues were taken before they were out of bed. And on this evidence, and that of their seventh companion, they were sentenced, and this day executed, and are to be gibbeted in the morning.

During this narration, I could not refrain from expressing, by my countenance and gesture, the strong compunction I felt on recollecting my long association with those reprobates; but my good master, as I suppose, ascribed my emotions merely to the detestation which I had of their deeds.

I had been close upon two years in the service of Mr Felton, and he had lately agreed with me at 25*l.* yearly, whereon he paid me the last year's wages in

hand ; when one evening, as I stood behind the counter, a young woman came in and desired to see such and such goods. While she was cheapening on the one hand, and I setting forth the extraordinary value on the other, several intelligent glances were exchanged between us. Whenever her eyes met mine, she instantly cast them down with blushing modesty ; and yet whenever I looked at her, I saw that her eyes had been fixed upon me. At length having bought some little matters, she made me a bashful curtsy, and going out at the door, she turned upon me with a significant glance, and departed.

All that night I felt myself as I had never felt before ; I turned and turned again from the image of this girl, and yet she seemed to stand before me, and to look, and to look upon me, as she had done the day before.

For five tedious days she withheld herself from my sight, and I feared that I should never behold her any more. At length she came, and I strove in vain to conceal my joy on her appearance. After cheapening and paying for some little matters, she cast her eye on a piece of silk, which, she said, she fancied greatly, but feared that her pocket would not

reach so far. O Miss! said I, we shall not quarrel for such a matter, provided I know where to call for the money. On Sarah Simper, Sir, said she, at such a sign, in such a row.

As I had three or four spare hours from business every evening, I gladly laid hold of the occasion I had gotten for spending that time in visits to my beloved. I went, indeed, without forming any purpose or intention, save the pleasure of seeing her. Her fondness seemed, at least, to equal my own; and, though we proceeded at times to toying and dallying, yet for three weeks we kept within warrantable limits. But this was not always the case. Our first transgression was succeeded, on her part, by tears and reproaches, and, on mine, by a depth of sorrow and remorse.

As this was my first fault, with respect to woman, my conscience was yet unsteelled. I spent the night in sighs and tears of contrition, and I repeated a thousand promises and vows to my God, that I never would be guilty of the like again.

For five entire days I kept from going to her. At length I considered, that as I had injured her, I ought to make her such recompence as was in my power. I put about twelve pounds into my pocket,

being all that I had left of my last year's salary, and went and told her, that I was come to take my leave of her ; then pouring the money into her lap, I promised to give her what I should earn from time to time, and to marry her whenever I should be enabled to maintain a family. Here we both fell into tears, and from tears we proceeded to careffes, and so forth, till at last we became as guilty as we had been before.

In like manner, for the fix ensuing weeks, I kept on in a course of repenting and sinning, and of sinning and again repenting. Every night I formed resolutions which I imagined would be stronger than any I had made before ; but whatever force I put on myself, whatever strength I exerted, I never was able to persevere for three days together. When I felt myself drawn to her, as by some irresistible power, I vowed, and flattered myself on the way, that I would return without transgressing ; but, when I came to her, I found it quite as impossible to keep from sinning with her, as it was to keep from her. Thus, by frail and falsified vows, I daily continued to add to the heap of my guilt ; till at length I became hopeless of any ability to resist temptation, and sinned on with

my eyes open, and yet with less remorse than before.

As I was sitting with her one evening, a bailiff entered suddenly, and laid an action upon her for fifteen pounds, which, he said, she promised to pay for her mother in her last illness. Whether the debt was feigned, and the caption preconcerted between them, I know not; but I afterwards recollected, that she did not seem to be so alarmed, as one would have expected on such an occasion. On the other hand, my soul was filled with bitter and distracting thoughts. I could not think of suffering my love to be confined among fellows in a common prison; and yet how to come by the money I knew not. I offered the man my note, payable when my salary should be due; but he refused to depart without instant payment. Hereupon I hurried home, and taking out 15*l.* of my master's money, I returned and discharged the action.

From this time my fair one began to extend her appetites, and to rise in her passions. Under colour of being with child, her longings and fits came frequent upon her, and I was in a manner constrained to indulge her, till I had taken of my master's money to the amount of fifty pounds.

David, said she one day, it is time to tell you, that I must soon quit my mantuamaking business, for I am growing too big to appear with decency among my customers: So you must take other lodgings for me, and provide a sufficient fund to defray the many necessary expenses of child birth. And where, my dearest Sally, may such a fund be provided? I have already gone lengths for you that may bring me to the gallows. If you had not been a poor-spirited fellow, says she, you could not bear to live in the fears that haunt you so; you would long since have made away with that old scoundrel your master. Here, throw this little dust into his broth, or his posset, and then you may wallow in money without fear of account.

Here I looked her full in the face, when every beauty that had once enchanted me, suddenly vanished from my sight, and I saw nothing but the dire head of a snaky Medusa. However, I suppressed my horror as well as I could; and putting back the paper, No no, no no, Sally, said I, I would rather die the worst of deaths myself, than have a hand in making away with my kind old master. And die you shall then, she cried, for I will not perish alone. She then

dropped on her knees, and vowed, with fearful imprecations, that she would go directly to Mr Felton, and make a discovery of my robberies ; that she would also go to the next magistrate, and swear a rape against me ; and that she would poison herself and the bastard within her, that she might not bring into the world any part of such a villain.

While she spoke, her aspect looked livid and deadly, and wrath and desperation flashed in fire from her eyes.

My dear Sally, said I, lower your passions a little, give me that paper again, we shall see what may be done. And here I leave you my watch as a pledge of my return by to-morrow at noon. This I did, however, not with the smallest intention of keeping my promise ; for I determined never more to look her in the face. But I bequeathed to her, as it were, the only stake of value which remained to me, that the wretch whom I had ruined might not be left altogether without means of life.

When I got into the street, I hastened homeward, without deliberating a moment on what I was about, or on the consequences that might ensue. My master was in a back chamber, looking over

some letters, when I rushed in precipitately, and shut the door behind me. What is the matter, child said he, are you not well? You look pale and affrighted; what is the matter, David? O Sir! O Sir! and sunk upon my knees, I bring to you a villain, a reprobate, a thief, a robber, a betrayer of trusts, also the vilest sinner that ever sinned against God and against man. I got in league with a bad woman, who seduced me by her beauty, and then prevailed upon me to defraud and rob you, and would have persuaded me to murder you; but there I stopt short; I could not be prevailed upon to murder you, my master! Pray then, said he somewhat sternly, to what intent are you come? To demand justice, Sir! I cried, and to appease my own conscience by suffering for my faults. Tell me then, said he mildly, and tell me truly, of how much money have you defrauded me? Of fifty pounds, Sir! I answered, a few shillings under or over. Rise then, pray rise, my David! he cried, I would not bring you to shame, and much less to punishment, for five times the value of fifty pounds. I owe you for your services very nearly that sum, and I forgive you the remainder with all my heart. No, Sir! I cried aloud, and

burst into tears, you do not forgive me, you cannot forgive me, for this your goodness does but heap the heavier guilt upon my soul.

He then got up, and came to me, and raising me to his bosom, he embraced me, and cried, I rejoice over thee, my David, I rejoice over thee, my child, as Heaven rejoiceth over the one sinner that repenteth, more than over the ninety and nine that have no need of repentance. You now know your own frailties; you are sensible of your lapses, you will be cautious of future falls; and you stand upon firmer ground than ever.

You know me not! I exclaimed, you know me not, my good master. I am wholly irreclaimable. The devil has taken possession of me, and reigns through all my members. I find it quite in vain to strive or struggle against him. I have no more strength than a midge against temptation; no more power than a weak and fainting man against a torrent that already has borne him far away,

I will pray for you, my son, said the good man vehemently! I will wrestle with my God for you! and his grace shall be sufficient. No, Sir, I replied, after that which has happened, I never shall be able to look you in the face, I will not

trust myself. I know that I should fall on the first trial, Will you leave me then, he cried, will you leave me, my son, David? and he took out his handkerchief, and wiped away the falling tear. I must, I answered, I must leave you, my dearest master, I should be miserable if I staid. I will go directly to sea, I will confine myself in some ship, where I shall be shut from any commerce or communication with mankind, and not have it in my reach to wrong or damage any person. And, indeed, I could not bear to stay in one town, or even in one kingdom, with that bad woman. Where may she be found, David? said Mr Felton. Ah, Sir! I exclaimed, leave her to God, and to her own evil conscience, I beseech you. I believe she is with child by me. Do not desire, my master, to hurt a little innocent that has not yet seen the light! No, my David, no, I mean nothing but comfort to her: I mean to supply her wants, and to soften her distresses. She will not then be tempted to wish hurt to her benefactor, and I will take care of the little wretch which she carries in her body, for your sake, my David.

There was something so affecting, Gentlemen, in such a proof of wonderful

goodness, as must have struck to the heart of the most abandoned reprobate. I was quite overcome thereby. I fell suddenly at his feet, and I wished to pour out my very soul in the same manner as I poured my tears upon them.

As he now found that I was bent and determined on departing, David, says he, since you will go, you must not go unprovided. A sailor ought to have proper necessaries; and, if you will give me your company for three or four days longer, I will get you a good birth in some ship or other. Mean time I would advise you to set about your preparations; for which purpose, you must accept these fifty guineas, which you may please to return me, when some happy adventure shall furnish you with means. No, no, Sir, I cried, putting his purse back with my hand, your plan is not the plan of your reprobate servant; your good births are not at all for my purpose. I will go as a common sailor; the meanest offices and the greatest drudgery will be a penance too little, much too little, for my transgressions. And so saying, I turned, and went hastily out.

I made directly to the quay, where I saw a crowd of citizens intermixed with sailors. On going up, I found that they were enlisting volunteers, to whom they offered from one to three guineas per man. And what will you give me, Captain, if I go with you? He then looked earnestly at me, and having eyed me several times from head to foot, I will give you, my lad, said he, five guineas in your fist, and here is my hand for a hearty welcome into the bargain. If your Honour, then, will be pleased to order those five pieces to be laid out for me in such necessaries as you think fitting, I live at such a place, and shall be ready at a call. Enough, said the Captain, our ship is called the Centurion, of thirty guns, the brave David Jenkins Commander. We set out by morning's tide, between ten and eleven; and if you come without a call, you will be the more welcome. So saying, he gave me a familiar shake by the hand, and we parted.

I then went directly home, and, calling Mr Felton aside, I told him of my success, and engagement in the Centurion, suppressing only the time of my early departure; for I felt that I could not stand

the parting with him, and I thought it best to make it as little painful to him and myself as might be.

During supper I endeavoured to chat, but I could not. And as Mr Felton, at times, looked affectionately upon me, I turned my head aside, and a silent tear stole down my cheek.

I spent the night in sighs and tears, and, getting up before day, I took my shoes in my hand, and stepping softly down stairs, would have stolen out at the street-door; but in that instant the door of a side-parlour was opened, and, before I could look about, my master had me in his arms. Will you leave me, then, David, will you indeed leave me? he cried. O David, David, I love you next to my only child. Stay with me yet, my son, O stay with me, my David, and I will do every thing, I will do all things that may be done for you.

Here I sunk, and was just fainting under the pressure of his goodness. Do not kill me, my master, do not kill me outright, I cried. You must no longer be burdened by my body of sin and death; as God has forsaken me, I must leave you, my master! let him do with me as he will, and if I perish, I perish. So

saying, I broke from him, and away I rushed, weeping and sobbing all the way, as tho' my heart would cleave in sunder.

The captain received me with great cordiality, and at times called me his namesake, and was very familiar with me. The sailors also, after his example, began to affect me without any appearance of envy ; for though I had not been exercised in their profession, yet I was strong, hale, and active, and ready to assist them at every turn.

In the meantime, please your Honours, it may appear very extraordinary, though I felt daily compunction, and nightly wept many tears for having offended my God throughout the course of my life ; yet I neither prayed to him, nor besought pardon from him, nor applied to him for any kind of support or assistance.

I was now incorporated with a fraternity whose wickedness was of a species quite different from that of my former brotherhood. Our sailors were so far from cheating and defrauding, that they scarce seemed to have any regard for property ; and they were as brave a set of fellows as ever trode a deck. But then they were as hardened to any sense of religion or piety as the nether mill-

stone ; and the sacred and tremendous names of God, and his Christ, were of no other import to them than as the balls of a billiard table, to be tossed and bandied about for sport.

At first this was a matter of great offence and horror to me. Can there be a God, I would say to myself, and can he suffer his tremendous name to be insulted and blasphemed as it is by these wretches ? But, alas ! I was not as one of the three captives at Babylon ; I could not be cast into the furnace, and come forth without a singe. In time this profaneness became less irksome to my ears, and, by degrees, I began to relish, and to catch the common contagion.

At times, however, some thoughts of God and a Saviour would come into my mind, and the pious impression of my infancy would return upon me ; but I did my best to banish them, as they served but to torment me.

At times, again, I would silently expostulate, as it were, with God. It is true, I would say to him, I have been wicked, desperately wicked, through a long course of sinning ; but did I not long strive, and struggle, and fight against temptation ? If you meant me for yourself, why did you not make me with less

proneness to evil? or why did you not give me greater strength to resist?

Again, shocking and blasphemous thoughts would enter into my gloomy soul; as though the gospel were all a fable, and religion nothing but priestcraft; that all events were of chance; that men were good or evil, merely according to constitution; and that either there was no God, or he was too great, or too distant, to concern himself with the insignificant affairs of mortals. But these insinuations of the tempter were never of long continuance; and again I would return to *believing* and *trembling*.

Our ship had been destined to protect the trade in the Levant. Within the space of five months we had rescued from the captors six English ships, and made prize of three stout frigates, of those African pirates who war upon the world, when the boy from the mast-head cried out, A sail! We immediately made chase, and found by evening that we had gained considerably upon her; but as the night came on thick and hazy, we shortened sail, and lay to till morning, but hung out no lights.

At dawn of day we renewed the chase, though no sail was then in sight; but we had not continued it above four or

five leagues, when we clearly discerned the same vessel, and perceived that she altered her course, and was bearing down toward us.

Hereupon we shortened sail, and waited for her. But we had not waited long, till we perceived a second vessel that seemed in chace of the first; and some time after saw a third that seemed in chace of the two former.

On this the lieutenant, an old and experienced sailor, looked somewhat blank, and desired that the captain would instantly call a council of war. Gentlemen, says he, the many captures we have lately made could not fail of informing our enemies that we are in these seas; and I apprehend, with great reason, that they have made choice of their best means to over-reach and over-match us, and to fall with their united force upon us. And indeed ye may already perceive, that the ship which we had in chace has shortened sail, and waits to be joined by her two consorts, whom she seemed so lately to fear. I think, as the jockeys say, that we have more than foot for them; and all the question is, whether Old England shall make use of her fleet to fly, while she has any hands left wherewith she may fight? At this they cried, with one voice,

No flying ! no flying ! let them come on, the circumcised dogs, as many as may be of them ; we will neither take nor give quarter, they or we must to the bottom ! To work, then, my brave lads ! cries Captain Jenkins, for we are likely to have as warm a bout of it as we could wish.

To busble went all hands. We had a clear ship in a moment : and, for the first time, stowed our hammocks in the nettings. The captain then choosing a dozen of the best marksmen, he disposed them in the tops, with strict orders to direct their fire only at those who appeared to be officers.

Our ship at this time was full manned with about two hundred and seventy spirits, all as ready and desirous to go and meet death as a beau to go to a ball, or an alderman to a feast.

The three consorts were now joined, as our mate had foreseen, and bore down upon us right before the wind ; and then it was that my fins came crowding into my mind ; and I believe I was the only person in the ship's company who trembled.

They all came up with a desperate boldness ; and while one attacked us on our bow, a second lay upon our quarter,

while the third bore away under our stern, and raked us fore and aft with her whole broadside ; nor were we idle in the mean time, but plied our guns with such spirit and success as soon obliged them to sheer off.

Our ship was of English oak and stood their shot to a wonder ; our metal was also much weightier than theirs ; but then they outnumbered us three to one in men and in guns.

Having got out of the reach of our shot, they moved off, as intending to make their escape ; but having repaired their damage as well as time would allow, they returned upon us with two-fold resolution and fury.

Then it was, Gentlemen, that such a scene was opened, as was sufficient to strike hell itself with horror.

They now entertained us with a new kind of warfare. For getting up within pistol-shot, they tossed their granadoes or hand-shells among us, that were filled with broken bottles, and with rusty and ragged pieces of old iron. These did fearful execution, and our deck was quickly covered with blood and brains, and pieces of human flesh, while the noise of the cannon could scarcely drown

the screams of the wounded, and the groans of the dying.

In this desperate situation we loaded all our guns with grape-shot, which made such havoc among our enemies as obliged two of them to sheer away again as fast as they could, while the third kept playing upon us at a distance, till we forced her also to follow her consorts.

We now had leisure to clear our deck; and, with sorrowful hearts, threw our dead companions overboard.

Having once more set all to rights, we bore down on all three; but they crouded away from us, maintaining a running fight with their stern-chace; and as they levelled their shot almost wholly at our rigging, by evening we were incapable of further pursuit.

Meanwhile we had plied them with our cannon so well, that, as it began to wax duskish, we perceived the crew of the hindmost in much confusion, and making signals of distress to their consorts. Soon after we saw them heave out their boat, and they had scarce crouded into her when their ship went down. Hereon we gave a great shout, which we repeated on seeing their boat overset. But as the Moors are excellent swimmers, I suppose most of them got safe, and were

taken in by their companions. In the mean space our most gallant Captain Jenkins had his right leg and thigh carried off by a cannon-shot ; I think it was the last shot the enemy fired.

As I stood by my captain's side, I caught him in my arms before he fell to the board, and cried out for the surgeons ; but the effusion of blood was so great, and so impossible to be stanch'd, that we quickly despaired of any life for him.

As I supported him on deck with my right arm, he found himself growing faint, and turned his face to me. David, said he, I am not afraid to die, for I am a Christian. I believe, as surely as I am here, that Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief ; and he is so great and so gracious, that he will not suffer hell or the grave to disappoint him of an end for which he paid so dear a price. Here, my David, here is my purse and my watch, which I bequeath to your love as my last legacy ; and here is my diamond ring, with which I entrust you, as a token to my dear daughter, if ever it shall be your fortune to revisit Old England. And if you should go to London, my dear David, inquire out my good old friend, Alder-

man Bicker ; tell him of my behaviour during your service with me, and that I beseech him to use his interest with our Protector, in procuring my pay for my poor sweet child.

And that I will, right heartily, cried out Sir Thomas. I will also speak a word for yourself, my lad ; the Protector cannot refuse his favour to one who has had the honour of serving in the action of the Centurion, whose fame our very enemies have spread through Europe : But pray proceed in your narration : I long to hear the event of so interesting a scene.

Though we greatly grieved for our captain, we were still more concerned for the honour of England, lest our good ship should fall into the hands of the barbarians. For she now lay like a hulk on the face of the water. She could neither pursue nor avoid an enemy ; and, though she had been in plight, we had not hands left sufficient to work her.

Night came on apace, hostilities ceased on both sides ; the pirates hung out lights, to prevent, as we supposed, their parting from each other ; and we mournfully called a muster of our men in the dark ; whereon we found, that of two hundred and seventy odd men, we had but fifty

remaining, twenty of whom were wounded, though not disabled.

Come, my lads, cried the old Lieutenant, it is as good to be merry as sad. We have worked enough to-day to give us an appetite. Let us have something to eat and a bowl of punch; and if we die by morning, let us not die with cold hearts, and empty stomachs. Moreover, for your encouragement, I take upon me to promise, that, if you will be guided, I will make you masters of one of yonder vessels before sun-rises.

We engaged compliance to a tittle; and accordingly, after we had refreshed ourselves plentifully, he ordered our boats to be heaved overboard, and let drive with the wind. We then set our watch, and went down to take a few hours repose.

Two hours before day we were roused by the lieutenant, and the first thing we did was to bore a large hole in the side of our ship about a foot below water, for which we had an occasional plug prepared.

As soon as the day dawned, we set watches to give us timely notice of the enemies approach; and then lay down on our small arms out of observation.

The pirates, as we presumed, held up their glasses, but seeing neither men nor boats in our ship, they concluded, that

we had made an elopement by night, and came on without precaution or preparation.

As soon as they had arrived within about half a league, our watchmen, according to order, drew forth the plug, and, creeping upon deck, crouched down with us.

The consorts had agreed to board our ship on each side, in confidence of a rich and unresisting prize. But the moment that we heard the first of them rustling along side, and perceived that they were beginning to get up our side, we jumped up, as on man, and setting up a great shout, and overturning all we met, leaped into their vessel.

Never was amazement like that of the enemy! They scarce made any resistance, and, in less than a minute, not a Moor was left upon deck.

Mean time the other pirate had boarded our late vessel, almost to a man. They had heard, indeed, the shout, with the clamour and groans of their fellows, but did not rightly know what to make of it; till moving close round the head of our former ship, we shot the few who were left in the second frigate; then throwing out our grapplings, we towed her off,

and then bored and sunk her in the face of her owners.

They thereupon set up such a yell of despair and horror as was affecting, even to the hearts of their enemies. At length they turned the cannon of the Centurion upon us, but we soon got out of reach of their shot; and by the time we were about three leagues from them, we saw our good Centurion go to the bottom, the glorious tomb of her noble captain.

We now thought that, of about a thousand assailants, there was not one left to carry tidings to their native country of their defeat: but going down to the state-cabin, I saw a young man richly dressed, and of a noble aspect, leaning wounded upon a couch, with three attendants about him.

As I entered, he gave me a look that seemed compounded of apprehension and courage, and accosted me in broken English, for he had travelled much, and resided for a season in London.

I know, said he, that I am your prisoner: I also know what I am to expect. Draw your cutlafs then, and let me join my countrymen! No, Sir, I replied, you have nothing to fear from me. A man who deserves that name, owes nothing

but love to man, except when he is assaulted; the brave see no enemy in the feeble or the conquered.

Where have you learned, he cried, the sentiments of my own soul? But your generosity shall lose you nothing, demand what ransom you please, and it shall be paid you. I am not commander in chief, I answered; but, as far as my influence reaches, you are free as air, and shall be bound to us by nothing but your affections. Then, stretching forth his arm, Your hand, my brother, he cried, and giving me a kind squeeze, the tear came into his eye.

I went directly on deck, and informed our little crew, now reduced to thirty-three, of what had passed between the noble Moor and myself, and told them, I hoped they would be so generous as to make my promise good. To this the greater number gladly assented, but some of them murmured. Hereupon I remonstrated, that we were already rich enough, for we had brought all the money out of our own ship, beside the great treasure in the pirate frigate, which we had not yet divided. I further represented, that we knew not what the events of war or fortune might be, and that it would not be imprudent to make a friend

on the African coast, who, in all appearance, was a person of high consideration; and, with these reasons, at length all appeared to be satisfied.

I then carried the pleasing tidings to my new friend, and took with me our only surviving surgeon, who dressed the wound in his thigh, which had been made by a musket-ball.

As soon as the surgeon had withdrawn, the noble Osmyn of Petra, for so he was called, presented me with his purse, and a carbuncle-ring of extraordinary value, and pressed them earnestly upon me; but I as peremptorily refused them, and this refusal appeared to distress him greatly.

During the five days in which we continued together, I had him as tenderly and as honourably attended as our circumstances would admit; and I spent with him all the time I could spare from my duties and great fatigues upon deck, as all the hands we had were kept busily employed in splicing the ropes, refitting the mangled sails and rigging, and in repairing the breaches of the vessel; for our shot had bored her sides quite through in several places.

On these accounts we sailed but heavily, still making towards the Streights, and daily wishing to meet or be over-

taken by some English ship of force, to which we might safely confide ourselves and our treasures.

On the sixth morning, having arrived within twenty leagues of the mouth, the day discovered to us, that we were almost within shot of a ship that carried English colours. Hereat we rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and slackening our sail, and heaving out a small boat, ten of us slipped into it, and away we rowed with all our might. As we approached, we saw numbers, in English dresses, walking to and again on deck; and, getting alongside, they threw ropes over to us, and we mounted with great alacrity.

Hitherto we were so intoxicated with joy, that we had not the precaution to hail them, till we found ourselves in the very thick of our enemies. I looked round, and, seeing none but tawny and hostile faces about me, I civilly demanded, who, and of what country they were? when a ruffian, gathering his spittle, spitted it full in my face, and, at the same time, gave me a buffet on the side of my cheek. Then I did not once reflect either where or among whom I was, but with one stroke of my fist, I stretched him flat upon the deck; then throwing up the heels of another who had

raised his arm against me, he fell with his head foremost across his fellow ; and twisting round on a third, who had seized me behind by the shoulder, I dragged him under me, and we fell together upon the board. Here a crowd of them gathered over me, and, each helping to hold a leg or an arm, I was bound with cords that crushed my flesh to the very bone, and then tumbled with kicks, like a dog, along the deck.

Mean time my nine companions, who had offered to interpose, were also seized and bound, and cast into the hold.

For about three hours I lay in excessive anguish, though through a sort of stubborn pride I endeavoured to suppress my groans. In the interim I felt the ship begin to move, and soon after I perceived all in a bustle about me. Again I heard from within and without several discharges of small arms, and as I saw several Moors fall lifeless and convulsive, and biting the deck around me, I rightly concluded that the ships were engaged, I gave a long and deep groan, and I cried aloud, O, my countrymen ! my brave countrymen ! why am I not with you ? why have I not the happiness of dying with you, and for you ? and my

heart was so wrung that I fainted quite away.

I afterwards learned, that my true and valiant fellows had refused to submit upon summons: that the pirate, seeing them to few, and being desirous of saving the frigate for their own use, had attacked them with small arms, which were warmly answered on our part; when, having dropped or disabled above half of our brave English, with two of Osmyn's attendants who happened to be upon deck, they entered, and mercilessly butchered the remainder, among whom was our old mate and surgeon.

Mean time I lay insensible to all that passed, till a ruffian, seeing me pale and lifeless, in all appearance, gave me a wring by the nose. Hereupon I awaked to the bitterest sensations. I remembered me of my gallant messmates, who had so loved and caressed me above my merits; and my tears, without sigh or groan, ran in streams down my cheeks.

At length I heard a voice, a known voice, as I thought, crying, Where is my friend, where is my brother David? and turning my head a little, I saw my noble Osmyn just entering the ship.

O, Gentlemen! be not apt to judge hardly of all who have not learned Christ

by the form and by the letter. Osmyn, my Osmyn proves, that he may be in the heart of those who never acknowledged his name, although they have felt his power. And indeed, as the apostle writes, those who never learned his law, yet, having his law, or rather himself, in their hearts, shall be justified.

Having instantly cast an eye of searching love around, he 'spied where I lay, and coming and throwing himself beside me, he put one arm about, and cried, O, my brother ! my brother David ! is it thus that my people use you ? I grieve, that you Christians should beat us all to nothing in honour and humanity. He then took out his knife, and, having tenderly cut my cords, he strained his own ability to help me to rise.

He then called for the captain, who came bowing to him with great respect. Their discourse was long and earnest. At length Osmyn rose high in passion, and gave the captain a back stroke with his hand across the face. I observed his choler swelling almost to suffocation ; but he suppressed his indignation, and retired in silence. I heard Osmyn then giving some orders to the men ; but as I was a stranger to their language, I knew not the purport of any thing that passed.

Soon after, however, I saw my nine companions brought from the hold, and unbound. And Osmyn, turning to me, desired me to tell my people, that they were all free; and that as soon as we landed in Barbary, he would take the first means of sending them with honour to their native country. Ah! my Lord, I cried, I am sorry that you struck the captain; he has many adherents here, and will certainly seek some method of revenge. He dare not, he dare not, replied my friend; the villain would have disputed with me the property of my own frigate, which I manned and fitted out at my own expence. But if I hear or see any more of his insolence, as soon as we land, I will complain to the Dey my uncle, and have the rogue impaled alive.

He then ordered out the long-boat, and, turning to me, said, I am going David, to take an account of what effects are left in my ship; and I would take you with me if you were in a condition to go; but I will soon return, and in the mean time, order the surgeon do his best for allaying the swelling in your limbs.

During his absence, the ship's company, and even the captain, whose name

was Barbar, behaved themselves toward me and my fellows with great, though silent, civility; and a plentiful mess was served up to us for dinner. But during our repast I observed, that the captain called such and such of his men to the quarter-deck, where he held with them a long and whispering kind of conversation.

These fellows, as it seems, were the most barbarous and bloody of all their barbarous and bloody countrymen. Having taken the ship wherein we then were, a merchantman, carrying about twenty guns, they had massacred every creature on board, and then dressed themselves in the clothes of the English, in order to inveigle others in the like calamity; while they dispatched their own frigate back to Tunis to get recruits.

My noble friend did not return till late in the evening. He then ordered supper to be got ready, and the state-cabin to be prepared for him and me to ly in; but I whispered, and besought him to excuse me for declining that honour, as I perceived that the favours which he did me had already given much umbrage and offence to his countrymen.

I know not whence, or for what purpose forebodings may come; but all that

night my spirits were exceedingly sad and depressed ; and though my fellows and I were put to ly in a part of the ship the most remote from my friend, yet I imagined that I heard secret treadings and mutterings ; and again, at dead of night, that I heard the distant sound of trampling and struggling, as of people in doing and receiving violence.

I was still sore from the tyings and the bruises which I had received ; when, toward the end of a sleepless night, a gang of armed ruffians entered the place where we lay, and loaded us with irons. They then took away all our clothes and treasures, and threw to each of us a canvas shirt and drawers, as slaves prepared for the market.

The moment they laid their hands upon me, it occurred, that they would not have dared to do it, if they had not first made away with my dear friend and patron ; at which thought my soul grew instantly sick, and a dark cloud of sorrow fell heavily upon it.

Sore and shackled as I was, I got immediately on deck, and looked wistfully out to sea, but could discover no frigate. I then shuffled along as fast as I could to the cabin, where I had parted the night before with my Osmyn, and looking in at

the door, I cried aloud, Where are you, Lord Osmyn, where are you, my master ! my friend ! my dear Osmyn ! where are you ? where are you ?

When no answer could be had, I returned wild with rage and grief, and notwithstanding my chains, had I not been disabled by my contusions, I should have done my best to throttle every man I met. But all I could do was to wring my hands, and roar aloud to all around, Ye butchers ! ye cut-throats ! ye villains of all villains ! what have you done with your Lord ! what have you done with your master ! what have ye done with my friend ! with my Osmyn ! my Osmyn !

For two nights and two days I tasted nothing but water, which I drank in large quantities, as my soul, as well as body, was in a ferment and fever. On the third day, the captain fearing that I would die of grief, and that he should lose what he proposed to get by my sale ; sent a kind of interpreter to me, to let me know, that, on the night in which I parted with Osmyn, he and the captain soon after had some warm words concerning their right in the frigate, and in the English now on board ; whereupon Osmyn swore, that he would not remain any longer in his ship ; and that taking with

him a number of hands, he re embarked in the frigate, and directly set sail.

As this tale carried with it some face of a fact, I grew easier in my mind ; and, on the very day following, having anchored in the bay of Algiers, my fellows and I were taken into the town, and sold t public market.

I happened to be bought by one of the Dey's factors, who immediately sent me to work at his country-palace.

This work was a most stupendous undertaking. Above five hundred men had been daily employed in it for two years past, and yet a third of it was not done when I arrived.

A large lawn extended itself in the front of the palace, and here the Dey had ordered a great canal to be dug, and from its excavation a mount to be raised, whose base measured three hundred yards in circumference. The ascent was easy and spiral, much resembling the prints you have seen of the tower of Babel. The border of this ascent was adorned all the way with lofty cedars, interlaced with all sorts of aromatic and flowering shrubs ; and from the top, before I left it, was to be seen the bay, the shipping, the city, and country all around, while distant mountains on the one hand, and an ex-

tent of ocean on the other, alone bounded the prospect

You will think it very extraordinary, Gentlemen, when I assure you, that, till I was in a state of slavery, my mind never was free. Hitherto I had been the slave of sin and of appetite, of passions and of fear. But here I counted to set up my rest for life. I had no parents, no wealthy kindred, no friend upon earth to whom I might look for a pennyworth of ransom. There was therefore no further prospect for me, there was nothing further left to incite my desire, or to excite my concern; and I sunk gradually as it were, down into the peace of my own nothingness.

I had been lately the possessor of the value of some thousands, and now I had not wherewithal to purchase a morsel of bread. But I looked back on the many scenes of my very many wickednesses, and I did not look up to, but looked down before my God, and cried, Not enough, it is not yet enough, O Lord! something sharper! something heavier! some punishment that may expiate, and reconcile me to my God!

One night as I lay on my bed of stubble, I looked up to God, through the cloud of my own iniquities, and said,

In life, O my Lord, lay what thou pleafest upon me, but, in the hour of death, fave, fave me from the judgment ! Whereupon something within me faid, Fear not, thou vile wretch, fear not, {thou worm, David, for nothing fhall be able to pluck thee out of my hand. This gave me great confolation, and confolation was followed by peace, and peace was followed by pleafure ; infomuch, that I poffeffed more of the sweetness of heart-felt enjoyment than came to the fhare of twenty fenfualifts.

The Dey, or regent, then being was called Ali Eben Buchar. He was a great warrior, and yet a man of an amiable character, which is rarely the cafe with Moorish governors. He had been at Conftantinople when I was enflaved ; and on his return, he was fo folicitoufly engaged in matters of ftate, that he was not at leifure to come and fee our works. Toward the end of the fecond year of my fervitude, he arrived with a pompous train. He was a portly and comely perfonage, tho' his complexion was a deep olive. He expreffed high delight on furveying what we had done ; and he ordered a feftival of three days to be proclaimed for his labourers, with fports, martial exercifes, and prizes for the victors.

Great preparations were made for this entertainment. In a plain, on the left of the palace, a square of half a mile diameter was inclosed with pales; within which none were permitted to enter, save the Dey and his train, with those who laboured in his several works, amounting to about a thousand men. On one side, within the pales, a throne was erected, with two seats, and lower benches were placed on either hand.

Early on the morning of the first appointed day, the festival was opened by the sound of trumpets and horns, and other martial instruments.

It had been a custom among us of the labourers who were young and active, when the day's work was over, to divert our fellows with various exercises and feats, such as wrestling, running, leaping, and tossing or trundling leaden balls, and so forth; I was therefore up among the soonest, in hopes of distinguishing myself on the occasion.

By the dawning, the city was emptied of its inhabitants, and crouds came on after crouds, from all parts of the country, so that the pales were soon circled by an innumerable concourse.

Then came Ali, with his attendants, and entering the pale, ascended his throne,

while his courtiers and guards arranged themselves behind.

Then were exalted, on poles, the prizes that were to be given to such of the slaves, or labourers, as excelled in tossing the javelin, or in hitting a distant mark with the bow or with the sling. But as I had not been practised in these matters, I contented myself, for this day, with being a spectator. Some of the candidates, on this occasion, were extremely expert, and would send an arrow, or sling a stone, more directly to the mark than any European could shoot a musket-bullet; accordingly the generous Ali added freedom to the prizes which they had won, and immediately preferred them among his troops.

After this, Ali, to entertain his people ordered a dozen of his courtiers to run at the ring. Immediately a number of neighing steeds, richly caparisoned, were led by lackeys into the lists. The young nobles, without stirrup or saddle, vaulted lightly into their seats, and turning and winding their fiery horses with wonderful command and address, gave high delight to the spectators. Each of them then caught a javelin, which was tossed to him by an attendant; and, setting out, successively, almost at their

speed, three of them, in mid-course, bore off a small ring of brass, from the thread by which it hung, on the point of his lance.

After this, again, a great number of burlesque comedians entered the pales, in order to act one of their African drolls or pantomimes; some of them represented men, some tygers, lions, and bears; others ghosts, and others goblins. But I could make nothing of such a jumblement of intention, although it gave great diversion to the populace. And thus ended the sports of the present day.

While the people retired homeward, several waggons were drawn in, heavy laden with victuals and cooling liquors, wherewith all the slaves and labourers were plentifully regaled.

The second day was ushered in with the like pomp as the former; and prizes were set up for lifting the weight, for tossing the coit, and for pitching the bar.

At a little distance from the front of the throne, a ring was fastened to a leaden mass, that weighed about five hundred pounds, and above fifty adventurers successively attempted to lift, but not a man of them could move it. I then advanced, bowing lowly toward the throne, and putting my right hand in the ring, and

exerting my powers, I raised it fairly from the ground, whereupon a great shout was suddenly given by all my companions who worked with me at the mount. Hereupon a black came up, of Herculean bulk and brawn, and, desiring that fifty pounds more should be added to the lead, he lifted and swung them in the air with apparent ease, and the prize was accordingly adjudged to him.

A large iron coit was then given to the competitors, and about a dozen of them tossed it to a distance that was thought extraordinary. I then took it up, and threw it three feet beyond the furthest. But again the black slave came up, who was not of our company, and tossed it two feet beyond my cast, and consequently atchieved the second prize.

A long and massive bar was then presented to us; but all refused to take it in hand, till the same black seized it, and, putting one end to his foot, pitched it off to a distance that raised a cry of admiration. I then took my turn, and giving my whole strength and action to this single cast, I pitched it some inches beyond the throw of my rival, whereupon another shout was given and repeated. The black then was wholly enflamed by envy and resentment, and reclaiming the bar,

and exerting all his force, he threw it to a length, that, on admeasurement, was judged to exceed my cast, and he proudly laid hold on the third prize.

The great Ali then ordered me to be brought before him. I went, and bending on my knee, laid my head to the earth. Rise, said he. I obeyed, and he surveyed me with long and earnest attention. Young man, he cried, you have been this day something unfortunate, but you have not the less merit; put this ring on your finger, it discharges you henceforth from all kind of labour; but it does not enfranchise you, because, for the present, I do not chuse to part with you. I respectfully took the ring, and again bowing to the ground, retired in silence.

A tournament of the young nobles then ensued, wherein great feats of action and prowess were shewn. And the day ended with another droll, to which I gave no heed.

The morning of the third day was opened as usual, and prizes were exhibited for wrestling, for running, and for leaping.

Immediately the black champion stepped formidably forth, and challenged any to approach who desired to be crush-

ed to death, but not a man accepted this charitable invitation. Unwilling, then, that this boaster should carry off the prize without a contest, I stepped from my rank, depending more upon action than force to cope with him. We both stripped to our canvas drawers, and his looks and gestures menaced me with instant destruction. I advanced however to essay him, and he stretched his arms toward me as a vulture would reach his pounces to seize upon a chicken; when springing instantly up to him, I put a hand upon each of his shoulders, and, vaulting lightly over his head, I turned nimble upon him, threw up his heels, and laid him at his length on the earth.

As the contrast of our colours had rendered us remarkable to all the spectators, a shout was set up that rent the very elements. But the black arose, and roared aloud, with his lion-like voice, for justice; and the judges, on weighing the matter, appointed me to another trial, forbidding further fraud.

Again we prepared to engage, and again my black adversary stretched forth his arms, with eyes flashing fire, and features distorted with rage; when retiring from him, as if dismayed, I shot forward like lightning, and spring-

ing from the ground, I pitched the whole weight of my body into his bosom. This staggered him some steps backward, when continuing to press upon him, I put one foot behind, and he fell under me, with a horrible squelch, upon the sand; and dashing my hand against his forehead, I sprung up lightly on my feet.

Here the people repeated their clamours, which was echoed for a long space from side to side; while I proposed to the judges, that if my rival was not yet satisfied, I would give him the other venture. But the black was so far from being in plight for a third engagement, that he could not rise without help on either hand; and the prize being a fine turban with a diamond button, was put upon my head.

The competitors for the race then came from among the croud, being fifteen in number, lightly equipt for the purpose, and I also put on a thin canvas waistcoat that came close to my body.

In the front of the throne, a long pole was set up, from whence we were to start, and another pole was erected on the further side, round which we were to run, and so return to the post from whence we set out.

THE FOOL OF QUALITY.

We were all arranged in a line, and Ali himself was to give the word, when one of our fellows, either thinking, or pretending to think, that the word was given, started away, the rest followed, and I was left alone, quietly standing by the post. Why do you not set out? said Ali. When your Highness shall be pleased to give the word. Away, then! he cried, and away I sprung.

As I found that I was gathering them up very fast, I suspended my speed, and lingered behind the hindmost, till they had all turned the post, and extended in a long line before me. I then started away, and passed one, and then another, till, having passed them all, I left the foremost at a distance behind me, and seized the goal; whereupon Ali himself gave a cry of admiration, which was answered from all sides by all his people.

I was then presented with a velvet tunic embroidered with gold; and some smaller matters were given to the two who came next to me in speed.

The candidates for the third prize then rose from the ground where they had sat to repose themselves, for they were the same persons who had been competitors in the race. A scarlet-girdle was stretch-

ed along the grass, as a mark from whence the rivals were to set off on their leap. And each of them took a run, till they came to the appointed limit, and then sprung forward with their utmost agility.

As this, of all others, was the article of bodily exercise wherein I excelled, I stood by as an unconcerned spectator, till the contest was over. I then measured with my eye the length they had passed. Then, taking two men, I set them in mid-space, and placing a pole upon their heads I took a run, and throwing myself head-foremost over the pole, I turned in the air, and alighted six inches beyond the furthest leap; whereupon I was presented with a collar adorned with gems of great lustre.

Ali then ordered two troops of his lightest horse to come forward. Accordingly they entered the pale, and dividing they retired to opposite sides of the lists. The populace then fell back, and cleared the intermediate space, and the young officers set forward, on a half-gallop at the head of their troops.

Never did I see such action, such horsemanship. The officers, as they rode swiftly forward, would toss their lances aloft and then catch them in mid-air; and again they would cast them to a distance

before them, and, stooping, take them from the ground in the midst of their speed.

The troops then met, as should seem, in mortal opposition ; and breaking their frail lances against each other, they drew the wooden sabres, and each, passing his adversary, gave a back-stroke to his neck with such force and agility as was truly alarming. Their ranks then appeared to be broken on either part. And, instantly forming themselves into little rhombs, or squares, or wedges, they fought and mixed together as in a country dance, with the most regular confusion that ever was beheld.

This was justly delightful to all the spectators, and I regretted their departure, for the ridiculous entrance of a third pantomine.

While this droll was preparing, I received an order from Ali, to dress myself in the prizes which I had won, and to attend him.

I obeyed, and presented myself before him. What is your name, young man ? David, so please your Highness. Are you of Christ or of Mahomet, David ? My will is with Christ, so please you ; but, while I confess him with my lips, my whole life has denied him. Then David,

if you will but forsake Christ, and turn to Mahomet, you shall be the friend of Ali, and he will heap treasures, and titles, and great honours upon you. Ah, my lord ! I cried out, though I hold my Christ but by a frail and feeble thread, yet I would not quit that thread for a chain of golden links, that should bind the whole wealth of the world to my possession. And why would your Highness desire the service of a traitor ? He who proves a traitor to his God, so please you, can never prove true to any master.

Well, David, said he mildly, we may talk of these matters hereafter. In the mean time, before I do you any grace, I ought at least to do you justice. You have already received the rewards of your valour and your activity, but you have not yet received the reward of your obedience. You were the only one, brave David, who at the risk of your own honour, attended on my word, and here I give you an earnest of the recompence that I intend you.

So saying, he presented me with a large and massive sabre, whose handle was studded with gems of great value. I received it on my knee ; he then continued, Ask me now, David, what further gift you demand, except your dis-

mission, and it shall be granted you, to a tenth of the treasure in my coffers.

When he had spoken, my eye was caught by one of his retainers, and immediately I recollected the features of the pirate Barbar.

I instantly cast myself prostrate before his throne, and cried aloud, Ah, generous Ali ! may God multiply to you treasures and blessings a thousand-fold ! I ask none of your treasures and possessions, O Ali ! I only ask the head of that traitor, the head of Barbar ; I ask but blood for blood : let him restore to me my friend, my brother, my Lord Osmyn ; he is a murderer, a traitor, and such I will prove him by night or by day, by sea or by land ; at any weapons, against any odds, I will prove him a traitor.

While I spoke, thus impassioned, all about appeared under the utmost consternation ; and Barbar trembled and turned pale, but did not dare to quit his station.

Rise, David, said Ali, and tell me what friend, what Osmyn thou dost mean ? All I know of him, my Lord, is, that his name was Osmyn of Petra, and that he was nephew to some great prince in this part of the world.

Why, you dream surely, David, replied the regent, Osmyn of Petra was my own nephew ; and he perished, with all his crew, by the hands of the English.

He did not perish by the hands of the English, I cried ; the English were his preservers, his friends, his attendants ; and he perished by the hands of his own countrymen, and more especially by the hands of this traitor Barbar.

Well, said Ali, we have not leisure, at present, to examine into the truth of these allegations ; Guards, take that Barbar into safe and close custody, till we are better informed touching the facts with which he is charged. Mean time, do you, David, follow in my train, for you must take up your lodging with me this night.

The palace, though it appeared one uniform edifice, was divided into two by an impassable barrier. The one was the occasional habitation of Ali and his attendants : and his wives, with their eunuchs, were lodged in the other, where it was impalement for any man, save Ali himself, to enter.

For three days and nights after I entered his palace, though I was treated with an attention that gave me much un-

easiness, yet I had not the honour of being called to his presence.

At length I was conducted by a private door to his cabinet. My friend, David, said he, what hast thou to tell me concerning my dear and brave nephew Osmyn? I then minutely, and at large, recited to him the particulars above related: And we shed many tears that were mutually provoked by the tears of each other.

Having closed my narration, he cast his eyes down a while, as in deep meditation; and raising them again, he said, The presumptions are strong, very strong against this man, and yet there is a possibility that he may be guiltless. And though Osmyn was my nephew, my blood, and almost my bowels; yet honour, humanity, demands of us, David, that nine criminals should escape the punishment they deserve, rather than one innocent person should perish in his righteousness. But the great Alla may give us further lights in this business.

In about five days after, a convict was to be ganced for the rape and murder of a free woman. He was to be thrown from the top of a high tower, from whose walls projected several sharp and shagged instruments, resembling hooks, scythes,

tenters, &c. at certain distances, some below others.

He fainted several times as he was carrying to execution ; and then being in an agony, he said he had a matter of the highest consequence to impart to the great Ali, and prayed to be brought directly into his presence,

I was on the spot when he was led in, and, looking earnestly at him, recollected that he was the ruffian who had spit in my face, and given me a buffet when I entered Barbar's ship.

Wretch, cried the Dey, what hast thou to say to Ali ? That I am guilty, answered the convict, of crimes more heinous and capital than that for which I am to suffer ; of crimes that nearly concern yourself, O Ali, but which you shall never know, unless you swear to me, by Mahomet, to mitigate the manner of my death. I do swear it, said the regent, provided the discovery which you make shall be found to be of due import.

He then deposed, that on the night in which Osmyn disappeared, the captain, with ten confederated ruffians, of whom he was one, entered the Prince's cabin, and having muffled the faces of him and his attendant, to prevent their crying out, bound them hand and foot, and heaved

them thro' the window into a boat that waited for them : That then getting into the frigate, they massacred the seven Moors to whose care she had been left, and, rifling her of all the money, and plate, and valuables they could find, they sunk the frigate, with Osmyn and his attendant in her, and then returned to their own ship.

Here Barbar was sent for, who was brought in chains into the presence. But as soon as he saw the face of the convict, without waiting to be confronted by his evidence, he rushed violently, with his head foremost, toward the opposite wall ; and if a man who was at hand had not caught him by the chain, he would instantly have dashed his skull to shivers.

Ali hereupon, without further examination, ordered the head of the convict to be struck off in the morning, and Barbar to be impaled in the face of the people.

Never was joy like mine, on hearing this sentence pronounced against Barbar ; and I rose early the next morning in order to have the pleasure of being at his execution.

He was so enfeebled by his panics, that they were obliged to draw him on a sledge.

to the stake ; and his countenance had all the impressions of death, despair, and hell represented upon it.

This, however, did not affect me with any other sensation than of that delight which is naturally felt on the gratification of revenge, till the executioners, with unfeeling hearts, and merry tauntings, began to take the wretch in hand. But when I saw them with difficulty and great violence, thrusting the stake through his body, which they run up withinside the spinal bone, and so out at the back of his neck, in order to avoid his bowels, and keep him the longer in anguish ; when I saw him writhing in agony, and heard his horrible roars and groanings, all my revenge was quickly turned into terror and compassion ; his pangs and sufferings, as it seemed, were transferred to my own person, and, had I not turned away, I should have fainted on the spot.

The Dey from this time became extremely fond of me, and familiar with me. He allotted me an affluent pension, with slaves, horses, and attendants. He said I should be to him in the place of a nephew and of a son, and he called me by the name of David Osmyn.

Some time after, tidings were brought that Caleb Amurath of Fex was making

mighty preparations to invade his dominions. We will more than meet him half way, cried the gallant Ali; perhaps we may even prevent his threatened expedition. He then summoned his forces from all quarters. I was present when he made a general muster of them. His foot were more formidable for their numbers than their discipline; but his horse were perfectly trained, and made a most brilliant appearance

The day before he set out, I threw myself at his feet: I will go with you, my master, I will go with you, I cried. I will not have any command or post of preference or honour; I only desire permission to fight by your side, that you may witness how greatly I shall dare in your cause; how ready I shall be to take, to my own bosom, all the weapons that shall be aimed at your bosom, my father.

No, David, he replied, my people know you are still a Christian. I could not refrain from shewing the love I have for you; and that might be matter of jealousy and discontent to my captains. I will leave you here a band of soldiers, with whom you are to encamp within sight of my palace, and to keep these walls from violence, and my women from pollution. But while you are their guar-

dian, beware that you do not turn an invader, David ! I would pardon you any thing but this ; I would not pardon you the invasion of my bed, David Osmyn ! No, my Lord, I cried aloud, I cannot prove ungrateful. Though your women were as obvious to my walks as yonder pavement, and tho' adorned with more graces than their first mother in paradise, they should have no temptation for me, my master !

The next morning Ali began his march ; and having escorted him a piece on his way, I returned to my charge.

That night, as I lay in my tent, I began to call myself to an account. David, said I to my soul, thou hast now gotten preferment, and riches, and honours ; thou art, as it were, the second man in the realm, and all this people have thee in high estimation ; but art thou the better or the happier man for all this, David ? Far otherwise, far otherwise, O frail and vain heart ! these gauds and these glories have taken hold upon thee, and they have drawn a painted veil between me and my God. To my chain, and my straw, and my nakedness ! return me to them, O Lord ! return me to my slavery, return me to my labours ! I was not then, indeed, gaining conquests, and

winning prizes ; but I was near to obtaining " the prize of the high calling." My body was not then adorned with gold and pearl ; but my spirit rejoiced in " the pearl of mighty price."

In about five weeks after, as I was talking, by moon-light, my evening's walk of meditation on the marble that checkered the pavement before the palace, Muley, an old black, and chief of the eunuchs of the seraglio, came up and accosted me. Osmyn, said he, taking a bundle from under his arm, I have here a present for you that would make proud the greatest Emperor upon earth. It is a complete suit wrought purposely for you by the fingers of the Sultana, as also by the fingers of her fair and princely sisters. They have heard of your great achievements during the festival, and they send you this in reward.

So saying, he unfolded the robes to the moon. They were flowered with gold, pearls, and gems of such a vivid lustre, as reflected her beams with tenfold brightness.

And what is required of me, Muley, I demanded, in return for this inestimable honour and bounty ? Nothing, said Muley, but a single hour's attendance, to give them a short sketch of your life and

adventures. Take back your presents, I cried, there is poison and death in them ; I will not betray the trust that our master has reposed in me. Nay, said Muley, I affirm to you that there is no such intention. Our ladies are all women of the severest chastity. I will undertake to conduct, and reconduct you back in safety. Neither can our master be betrayed in any degree. They all live together, they love like sisters, and no one keeps a secret from the other. However, they desired me to tell you, that, if you are of a fearful temper, they will not insist on the favour so much expected.

Here I felt myself piqued: No, Muley, I cried, I am no coward. I can dare all honest dangers. I will attend you. But I will not stay, Muley. I will let your ladies know, that, in the cause of honour and virtue, I can resist all temptations.

I then called a distant slave, who waited my orders, and giving him the bundle, desired him to lay it within my tent. Where now, Muley ? said I. I will shew you, said Muley.

He then led me to a large bucket wherein water was accustomed to be raised by pulleys to the balcony, and there

to be emptied into vessels that stood upon the leads.

You must not enter any door of the lower storey, said Muley ; for there our domestics inhabit, and might, probably, observe you. But, if you get into this bucket, in a minute or two after I will raise you by the pulleys, and take you gently in.

Muley then went from me, and was admitted, on striking at a distant door ; while I stood by the bucket, and, observing its first motion jumped in, and was conveyed to the top of the palace.

Muley there received me in darkness and silence, and, taking me by the hand, led me down by a few steps into a narrow apartment that was scarcely enlightened by a glimmering lamp. He there left me again, giving me only a whispering promise that he would quickly return. I waited for him long, however, under great impatience of getting speedily back again. At length he came, and, taking me by the hand, without speaking a word, he led me thro' a long and dark entry, till, coming to a folding-door, he touched a spring, whereupon the door flew open on either side, and threw a sudden blaze upon my dazzled eyes.

The saloon upon which it opened was profusely illuminated, and most sumptuously furnished; but my attention was quickly called from such inferior objects. In the midst a board was covered with an elegant collation. Around it were placed a great number of small sofas; and behind each sofa stood a lady richly adorned, but veiled from the head to the waist.

Again Muley led me to the further end, while I made a low obeisance as I passed the company. He then compelled me to sit, where, by a small turn of my head, I could have a full prospect of each fair-one at table. Then, as by one motion, they were all instantly seated; and again, as by one motion, they all instantly threw up their veils; and I had like to have fallen backward with the suddenness of the lustre that flashed upon my spirit.

All the ladies smiled, and seemed delighted at my astonishment. The Sultana Adelaide sat nearest to me, on the right; and was no way distinguished from her sisters, but by a small coronet of feathered diamonds that was inserted in her lovely locks. Osmyn, said she, you seem something surprised; were you never in a seraglio before? Have you no seraglios

in your country, Osmyn? No, Madam, I replied, we have no seraglio in our country; but sure, no seraglio upon earth ever produced such and so many beauties as now strike my eyes. Heaven alone can exhibit such a constellation of luminaries.

Would you not wish then, said Adelaide, to have such a seraglio of your own? No, Madam, I answered; without love, in my judgment, there can be no true enjoyment; if ever I love, it can be but the one object, and her I shall love with my whole heart; true love will admit of no division. Here she looked at me with a tenderness that sunk into my soul, and, taking out her handkerchief, she wiped away a swelling tear.

Another lady then demanded, if we had not a woman market, and if they were not slaves in my country as they were here? No, madam, I replied, our fair-ones there are not the subjects of merchandise, but the objects of admiration. No woman in England can be bound to any lover, save by her own affections. There it is death for any man to have more than one wife, and that after a suit, perhaps, of several years. A lady there, of equal beauties to the least excellent in company, would be followed by

hundreds of humble and sighing adorers. In England our actions are as free as our hearts ; and the sensibilities of mutual love, between those of the sexes who feel that tender and enchanting passion, constitute the principal happiness of which life is capable.

Happy Englishwomen, happy Englishwomen ! was echoed all around.

Alas, cried the lovely Adelaide, how very different is our fate ! we are sold, like servile brutes, to any brute of a master. We neither love, nor are beloved ; as you now have convinced me, Osmyn. We are subjected to vile desires, which we at once detest and suffer ; and, when these desires are gratified, we are cast away as common lumber, to make room for some new comer. Even high as I sit here, the favoured Sultana of my Lord, I may to-morrow be appointed to the meanest offices of his household. This, surely, cannot be a marriage ; for, as you have intimated, Osmyn, and as I feel in my own soul, marriage can only consist in an union of hearts. Love cannot be bought or sold ; it is of too precious a nature ; nothing can purchase, nothing compensate, save its value in love around.

Here they pressed me to tell them my story ; and here I confess, to my shame,

that, however vile I appeared in my own eyes, I was ambitious of appearing as honourable and deserving as possible in the eyes of the fair Adelaide. I therefore suppressed what was black, glossed over what was offensive, and enlarged on every thing that I deemed advantageous in my own character.

The night was far spent, by the time I concluded ; and the Sultana arising, proposed to shew me the curiosities of an adjoining cabinet. I accordingly attended her, and was astonished at the lustre, the richness, and profusion of the jewels, as well as at the miracles of art that she displayed before my eyes.

On our return we perceived that our company had absconded. Adelaide grew all crimson, and cast down her eyes. I also was confused, my heart began to throb, and I looked about for some pretence to make a quick escape. But—but—in short, Gentlemen, neither my resolutions, nor religion, nor honour, nor gratitude were of any avail against such a temptation ; they fell together, an easy victim to the all-conquering Adelaide.

Adelaide was the first to press my retreat. It was not yet day. I found Mulley in waiting. We came by the way we

went, I stepped into the bucket, and he let me gently down.

As I approached the pavement, I felt a hand behind that seized me violently by the shoulder. I sprung out, and seizing the wretch by the throat, would instantly have plunged my poinard into his bosom, but some power as suddenly arrested my arm, and said to my heart, Beware that thou add not murder to adultery, David !

While I hesitated, a number rushed upon me unaware; they gripped me by each arm, and wresting the poinard from me, they bound my hands behind, and led me to the cells of the Imans, that stood something aloof from one end of the palace.

As soon as they had brought lights, What, Osmyn ! exclaimed their chief, can this be our renowned Osmyn ! Is it thus that you repay the favours of your generous and kind master ? You are a Christian, cried another ; has your Christ then taught you to betray the confidence and trust that is reposed in you ? This was a home stab ; it went through my heart ; but I stood in a shamefaced fullness, and opened not my lips.

Here they went apart, and, having consulted a while, returned. Osmyn, said

their chief, you are a brave and a wonderful man, and it is a pity to lose you. Your secret is yet with us; and we swear to you, by our holy prophet, and by the terrible Alla, that if you perform the single condition we enjoin, we will bury what we know, in a depth below the grave, and we will recommend you to the love of Ali, and the acclammation of all the people, and we will have you loaded with preferments, and riches, and honours. Name it quickly, I cried, whatever it may be, at the risk, at the loss of my life, I will perform it. It is, said he, no more than to abjure Christ, and to confess Mahomet, whose priests we are, and all the blessings of his paradise shall be showered down upon you.

Here I gave a deep groan; and casting down my head, and shedding a silent tear, without daring to lift my thoughts to heaven; No, no, I cried, though Christ is nothing to me, though I have no interest in him; though he spurns and has rejected me, for time and for eternity; though I have daily denied him by every action of my life, yet my tongue shall never deny him. In poverty and nakedness, in dangers and in dungeons, in death here, and in hell hereafter, my mouth shall confess him.

Here they went apart again, and, returning, told me that I should have two days to deliberate on their proposal ; but that, if I did not comply, I should be impaled alive on the third morning, with all the additional tortures that art could invent.

They then put me into a covered kind of a waggon, and conveyed me to Algiers, where I was cast into a noisome dungeon, bolted down to the ground with irons, sustained with coarse bread and water, and not allowed a ray of light to divert my thoughts from the darkness and horrors of my situation.

Mean time I endeavoured to reinforce my resolution, by repeating to myself the sacred promise, where Christ says, "Who-
"soever will confess me upon earth, him
"will I confess before my father which
"is in heaven." Mine indeed, said I, is but a verbal confession ; but even that, with what I am about to suffer for his sake, may serve to make me less criminal, if not acceptable, in his sight.

I then longed to be brought to the test, while I shuddered at the thoughts of it. At length the day arrived. The Imans came, and once more repeated the question ; but I still persisted, though in terms that were scarcely intelligible, for

my tongue cleaved with terror to the roof of my mouth.

They then stripped me to these drawers, out of which also they took my money, with other valuables, and every thing I had in the world, and having tied me to a sledge, I was dragged to the place of execution.

The chief Iman once more asked, If I would renounce the Son of David; but I made him no answer, for I was unable to speak. I had seen the preparations; the stake in the hands of the executioners; the fires kindling about me, with horrid instruments ready to be put therein, for the tearing of my frying and quivering flesh from the bones.

Could I then have had the confidence to have turned my soul to God, and to have besought his assistance in that trying and terrible hour, I make no question but he would have given me strength from on high, to defy all that men or devils could do unto me; and I might now, in the regions of his bounty and his blessedness, have been pouring forth my existence, in the grateful and astonished sense of his mercy to such a sinner. But when I reflected on the writhings of Barbar, the bare sight of which my spirit was not able to support; when I

saw such an apparatus of additional torments ; and when they took me in hand, for instant execution, I utterly lost my senses ; I shrunk inward with fear, my hairs stood on end with horror ; my tongue sounded sudden utterance, and I cried, Stay, stay, I will say, I will do whatever you enjoin.

The Iman then began to pronounce a form of renunciation, which he ordered me to repeat after him ; but I was so panting and breathless, that they were obliged to get a cordial for me to keep me from swooning.

As soon as my spirits were something restored, the Iman again began his impious ceremony, and I make no question but I should have gone through it, however abhorrent to my soul ; but in that instant, we heard distant shouts and cries, as of many people ; the sound of the clamours drew nearer and nearer, and soon after we saw numbers hurrying to and from the city. Their words became now as distinct as they were audible ; Ali is slain, Ali is slain ! was all the cry ; and Amurath comes in full march upon us.

Here all turned suddenly from me, and flying several ways, left me unbound and alone, sitting close by the

stake. Seeing this, I began to recover from the fearful and faint condition in which I was; and rising, I made the best of my way to the port. There I saw a long-boat just about to set off with a number of fellows, much in my own plight, and taking a run, I sprung from the beach into the midst of them.

A man then demanded in English if I was one of the the ransomed? Yes ransomed, ransomed, I cried, wonderfully ransomed indeed; whereupon, without further question, they set up their sail, and in about two hours, we reached the ship which the consul had appointed to take them in.

For the remainder of that day, I continued in a state that is hard to be conceived. My head and stomach, at times, were disordered by sick fits, and my soul hovered in an astonished and fearful kind of doze, as one not rightly awaked from a dream of horror.

Toward evening I threw myself down in the hold, and sunk into a state of utter oblivion, as I had not slept for the three foregoing nights and days.

The day following I found my body something refreshed, but the situation of my mind was like that of a disturbed and tumbling sea after a raging storm. I

looked around for comfort, but no comfort was near ; I looked far off for hope, but no hope came in prospect. The sense of existence became a misery under which I was not able to bear up ; and could I have had my wish, creation would again have been uncreated.

During the whole of our voyage I continued, very nearly, in this distemper of spirit. For though at times I would enter into the frolics and jovial humours of the crew, yet my merriment, at such seasons, was a merriment to madness ; and I would again sink, precipitately, into a depth of despondence, whose darkness would admit no ray of consolation.

The tempter would then urge me, by dagger, or by drowning, or by any means to get rid of a being that only served to torment me ; but again the dread that I might not get rid of that being, and that death might plunge me into a perpetuity of those pangs in which I saw the wretched Barbar agonizing, this deterred me from hastening the day of my horrid doom, and so I waited in a gloomy and
“ fearful looking out for judgment.”

I would then call myself, at dead of night, before the terrible judgment, Thou fiend David, I would say, wherefore art thou sunk in guilt above all that ever

were guilty? It was thy fortune to get three good and kind masters, good and kind above thy wants, and even up to thy wishes; and all these thou hast deceived, thou hast spoiled and betrayed them. Even the Master of all masters, the Master who was my freedom in the midst of my captivity, I was on the brink of denying the Jesus also; nay, I did reject, I did deny him; I promised, I engaged to reject and deny him; and he will reject thee; through time, and through eternity, he will deny thee, David!

One evening a fearful tempest arose; and while most of the crew gave some of their little matters to the provedore for liquors, and sat, drowning the sense of danger, and profanely carousing, at one end of the ship; my companions, who were present, were praying or singing glory to God in the other. Both parties invited me to join them. But I refused to be partaker with either; for I could not abet in others that wickedness which I condemned and detested in myself; and I could not think of taking into my execrable mouth the sacred name of that Christ to whom I had so lately turned a false apostate. In the mean time, I held myself as the refugee Jonas,

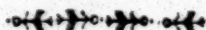
whose crimes brought perdition of all in the vessel ; and I was on the point of advising the mariners to cast me out.

A length the tempest abated, but my perturbations did not abate. I wished to repent, but I deemed myself past the possibility of repentance ; and thus I continued in a state of dissatisfaction and enmity against myself, against my God, against man and woman kind.

As soon as he had closed his story, Take courage and comfort to you, David, said Mr Fenton. Your case is not near so desperate as your conscientious fears have formed it. Your error lay in trusting to your own sense of duty, and to the strength of your own powers for resisting temptation ; and the best man that ever breathed, with no better a dependence, must inevitably have fallen as you did, David. You now know your own weakness ; you are taught, by repeated experience, that, in or of yourself, you no more can stand against the enemies of your soul, when they assail you, than a tree severed from its root, and barely set on end, can stand the assaults of a coming tempest. Keep therefore to your root, David. Never dare, in your own strength, to oppose yourself to a reed. Apply to the Rock, my friend, from whence you were hewn.

Cling to him, repose upon him, put your whole confidence in him ; and then your weakness shall become stronger than an army with banners ; and neither life, nor death, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

While I spoke, his eyes began to glisten, the cloud of his countenance cleared, his aspect assumed a chearful serenity ; he could scarce have been known for the same person ; and he cried, I will, I will once more seek to my God, do you, my master, pray him to permit my approach ; and in life, or in death, I never will let go my hold of him any more. He then would again have cast himself at my feet, but I hastened to prevent him.



C H A P. XVIII.

The history of our HERO continued,
from the end of VOL. III.

IN little more than a month, Harry made himself perfect master of the system of the British constitution, and

wrote comments upon it much more voluminous than the text.

As he had lost his friend Ned, who was now under the tutelage of his uncle Mr Catharines, little Dicky Clement became the principal companion of his hours of amusement, and Dicky with his goodwill would never be from his heels.

One morning as they strolled up the road, some distance from the town, Harry observed a crowd gathering fast on the way, and hastened, like others, to see what was the matter.

As soon as he arrived, he perceived Mr Gripe the constable at the head of the posse, with his painted staff of authority exalted in his hand. Pray, what are you about, Mr Constable? says Harry. I am going, Sir, to seize a robber, who has taken shelter in yonder waste hovel.—And whom did he rob?—He robbed Mr Niggards here, that is to say, his boy here, of a fix-penny loaf. Perhaps the man was hungry, said Harry, and had not wherewithal to buy one. Pray tell me, my lad, how the affair was.

Why, master, you must know as how Mr Niggards, my master here, sent me this morning to the town with a shilling, to buy two fix-penny loaves. So, as I

was coming back, I met an able looking man, who made me afraid with his pale and meagre face. My good boy, says he, will you give me one of those loaves in charity? I dare not, Sir, says I, they are none of my own. Here, says he, I will give you my hat for one of them; but this I refused, as his hat, to my thinking, was not worth a groat. Nay, says he, I must have one of the loaves, that is certain; for I have a wife and seven children all starving in yonder hovel, and, while there is bread in the world, I cannot but snatch a morsel for them. So, as I told you, I was frightened. I gave him one of the loaves without any more words, and away he run as fast as his legs could carry him; but I followed him with my eye till I saw him safe lodged.

Here Harry wiped his eye, and mused a while. Tell me truly now, my good boy, continued he, if both those loaves had been your own, would you willingly have given one of them, to keep the poor man and his family from perishing?

I would, Sir, said the lad, with a very good will. And had I a fixpence of my own, I would have gone back with all my heart, and have bought another loaf.

But my master is a hard man, and so I was forced to tell him the truth.

Here, my lad, says Harry, here is a crown. Go back, buy two loaves for your master, in place of the one he has lost, and keep the remaining four shillings to yourself for your trouble. You see, Mr Constable, continued he, you never can make any thing like felony of this matter. The boy confesses that he gave the bread with a very good will, and that he would not have informed, had it not been for fear of his master.

It is very true, please your honour, replied Mr Gripe; I myself do pity the poor man from my heart, and will have nothing more to say in this business.

Stay a while, says Harry, perhaps we may find some further employment for you. I think I should know the face of yonder man. Is not that the Niggards whom you had in custody the other day, and for whose deliverance I paid five and twenty pounds to his creditors? The very man, Sir, says Gripe.

Harry then put his hand in his pocket, and, taking out a small scrip of parchment, exclaimed, I am glad of what you tell me with all my heart! Indeed, I did not like the looks of the man at the time,

and that made me accept an assignment of this action. Here, Mr Gripe, take your prisoner again into custody in my name. Away with him to goal directly ! as the holy gospel has it, " He shall not depart thence till he has paid the utmost farthing." No, no, Mr Niggards, I will not hear a word. Go and learn henceforward to be merciful yourself, if you would look for any mercy from God or man.

Dicky, my dear, go back again, says Harry, our neighbour Joseph here will see you safe home. I will not suffer any one to go in my company for fear of putting the poor man or his family to shame.

Harry had not advanced fifty paces toward the hovel, when his ears were struck with the sound of sudden and joint lamentation ; and turning, he perceived that the inquisitive crowd had gathered at his heels. My friends, says he, I intreat, I beseech you to leave me for the present. I would not chuse any witnesses to what I am about. Pray oblige me so far as to depart on your own occasions.

Hereupon, being loath to offend him, they retired a few steps, and stood together aloof, attentive to the event of this uncomm adventure.

Meanwhile the cry continued with a bitterness that thrilled thro' every nerve of our hero ; and as he now approached the place, he did his utmost to restrain himself, and quell the feelings within him, and he drew his hat over his eyes, to prevent the parties from seeing the emotion that they caused.

The hovel was of mud-walls, without any roofing ; but as there was an opening where a door had once been, Harry stole to the entrance, casting an under eye of observation about him.

Hereupon a woman turned. She had been fearfully peering over the wall at the crowd, which had not yet dispersed ; but having notice of Harry's entrance, she looked towards him, and dropped on her knees.

O, Sir, she cried, if you are the gentleman who owned the loaf, for Christ his sake, I pray you to have mercy upon us ! Money, indeed, we have not, but we have these shreds remaining, and we will strip ourselves of our covering to make you a recompence. Alas ! alas ! could we have guessed how my husband came by it, we would have famished a thousand times rather than touch a morsel. But he, dear good man, did it all for our sakes, for the

fake of the heavy burden with which he is overladen. Ah! I would to heaven we were all dead, hanged, or drowned out of his way. He might then walk the world at large, and be happy, as he deserves.

Here again she set up her wailing, which was accompanied by her seven children, in such a woful concert, as the heart of Harry could not sustain, neither suffer him, for a season, to interrupt or appease.

At length he said, with a faltering voice, Pray be not alarmed, Madam, for I discern that you are a gentlewoman, though in a very unhappy disguise. The affair of the loaf is settled to your satisfaction; and here is ten guineas, it is all that I have about me, and it is only to shew you, for the present, that you are not quite so friendless in the world as you thought. Mean time I request that you will all come with me to Hampstead, where we will try to do something better for you.

Here the woman looked with an earnest and eager rapture at him. May Jesus Christ, she cried, be your portion, fair angel! and he is already your portion, he is seen in your sweet face, and

breaks out at your eyes in pity to poor sinners.

Harry was now stepping forth, and the rest prepared to follow him; when the poor man, who, for shame, had not yet uttered a syllable, gently said him at the opening. Turn, generous master, said he, pray turn, and hear a small apology for my transgression. I am a very unhappy man, I have seen better times; but I am driven, by cruel usage, from house and home, and maintenance. I was going to London to apply to the law for relief, when my youngest child, who was on the breast, fell desperately sick about four days ago. As we had no money to hire lodging, and had begged the means of life for the two foregoing days, we were compelled to take up with this shelterless hovel. From hence I frequented the road, and for the three last days begged as much as sustained us in coarse bread and water. But this morning my boy died, and his brothers and I, with our sticks and our hands, dug his grave that you see yonder, and I placed that flag over him to preserve his tender limbs from the pigs and the hounds, till it may please Heaven to allow me means to bury him according to the holy rites of our church.

This melancholy office, Sir, detained me so long, and exercise had made the appetites of my children so outrageous, that I was in a manner compelled to do what I did. As I had no coffin or winding-sheet, I took the waistcoat from my body, and wrapped it about my babe ; and would willingly have wrapped him with my flesh and my bones, that we might quietly have lain in one grave together.

Harry answered not a word, but walking onward before his company, plentifully watered the ground with his tears as he passed, while the poor man took his youngest son in his arms, and the woman her youngest daughter on her back, and thus, with a leisurely pace, they all arrived at Mr Fenton's.

The door being opened, Harry led his nine guests to the back-parlour, where he instantly ordered plenty of bread and butter, and milk for the children, with cold meat, ale, and cakes for the father and mother ; and this was a matter too customary in this house to be any cause of wonder to any member of the family.

As soon as they were refreshed, he took them all to his wardrobe, where he con-

strained the parents to take of the very best things for themselves and their children ; and having so done, he walked out, and left them to dress.

Mr Fenton was in his study, and had just finished a letter as Harry entered with a smiling countenance. I have been very lucky this morning, Sir, says he ; I think I have got the prettiest family of boys and girls that is to be found within five shires. Do you know any thing about them, Harry ? Nothing further as yet, Sir, than that they and their parents are exceeding poor, and have fallen, as they say, into great misfortunes. The mother is a very handsome and genteel young woman, and the father a portly and very comely man, save that he has a large purple-mark on the left side of his face. A purple-mark ! cried Mr Fenton, and started. Go, my dear, and bring that man to me directly. Why, pray, Sir, do you know him ! No, my love, I should not know him though he stood before me ; but I would give a thousand pounds that he may prove the man I mean, and that I shall discover on a short examination.

By this time the father of our new family was dressed, and Harry took him by the hand, bid him be of good cou-

rage, and led him to his uncle. He bowed twice, and with an awful and timid respect, while Mr Fenton rose, and looked earnestly at him. I rejoice, Sir, says he, to find that my son here has been of some little matter of use to you and your family. Pray take a seat nearer to me, Sir, if you please. He tells me you have met with misfortunes ; I also have had my share. I think myself nearly of kin to the unhappy ; and you will singularly oblige me by as much of your story as you shall please to communicate. I am interested in it.

I have nothing to conceal from your Honour, answered the stranger ; and I shall willingly give you an open and faithful narrative of my short but sad history.

My name is Giffard Homely. My father was a farmer in easy circumstances near Stratford. He bound me apprentice to a tanner, and when my time was out, gave me a hundred and twenty pounds to set me up in business. But dying soon after, he bequeathed the bulk of his substance to my elder brother.

Though my brother was a spendthrift, yet I loved him dearly ; and when his creditors fell upon him, I became his bail

for two hundred pounds. Within a few months after he suddenly disappeared, and I never could learn further tidings concerning him.

A writ was thereupon marked against me, and put into the hands of bailiffs. But liberty was precious. I left all my substance to the possession of my pursuers, and passing at a great rate, I escaped into Lincolnshire.

There I joined myself to Anthony Granger the tanner. Independent of his trade, he held a very beautiful and well-parked farm, under Mr Spranger Thornhill, the lord of the manor. And as I served him with great zeal, affection, and application, his affairs prospered under my hands.

He had an only child, a very lovely girl, of about ten years of age; her manners, like her countenance, were extremely engaging; and I took vast delight, at all leisure hours, in teaching her to read and write, and in diverting her with a variety of little plays and amusements.

I had no intention, at that time, of gaining her young heart; but that happened to prove the miserable consequence; and a heavy price it is that my poor dear girl has since paid for her affection.

Year after year she now grew in stature, but much more in loveliness, at least in my eyes ; and yet I flattered myself, that I affected her merely for her own sake. I used to please myself with the prospect of her being advanced to high fortune ; and I thought that I would willingly have given her up at the altar to some lord of the land.

One twelfth night a parcel of young folks of us were diverting ourselves about the fire with several pastimes ; and among the rest the play was introduced of *I love my love with an A, because she is amiable*, and so on through the alphabet.

When it came to my Peggy's turn, she, said I love my love with an *H*, because he is very *honest*, and I never will hate him for his being *homely*. And this might have passed without any observation, had she not cast a glance at me and blushed exceedingly, which threw me also into equal confusion.

As this was the first discovery that I made of her affection, it also served to open my eyes to the strength of my own passion ; and this cost me many a sleepless night and aching heart. I did not look upon myself as a sufficient match for her ; I reflected, that it would be

very ungenerous to lessen the fortune or happiness of the girl that I loved ; and I resolved a hundred times to quit the country, that my absence might cure both her and myself of our foolish fondness for each other. But though this was what my reason still prompted and approved, my heart still held me back, as it were, for a while longer, when I was on the brink of departure.

Peggy was just arrived to her fifteenth year, on the 24th of April, and was elected by the neighbours to be queen of the following May, and to deliver the prizes to the victors at the wake.

I had made a vow within myself, to forsake her and the country the very day after her regency, but in the mean while, I could not resist the temptation of shewing my addresses before the queen of my wishes.

Accordingly, on that day, I entered the lists among the other young candidates. But I will not burthen your Honour with a particular detail of our insignificant contests. You have unquestionably been witnesses to the like on several occasions.

It will be sufficient to inform you, that as I had the fortune to get the better at the race and at wrestling, when I successively went to receive the respective

prizes, my Peggy's eyes danced, and her feet went pit-a-pat with joy, as I approached her.

Cudgels came next in play, and a little stage of boards was erected for the purpose, that the spectators might see with the better advantage. As I had long learned this art from a famous master in Stratford ; and, as I was confident of my superiority, I hurt my rivals as little as possible, only sufficient to make them acknowledge that they were foiled.

At length one Hector Pluck, a butcher, mounted the stage. He had, it seems, been quite an adept at this sport, and, for ten foregoing years, had carried off the prize in several neighbouring shires, but he was now come to settle near Lincoln, and was to have been married the following day to a farmer's daughter, who was one of the fair spectators at the wake.

The moment he assailed me, I perceived that his passions were up, and that his eye was a plain interpreter of the deadliness of his heart. He fought cautiously however, and kept on a watchful reserve ; and we had long attacked and defended, without any advantage on either part, when, with a motion and fury quick as lightning, he made a side-stroke at

me, and aimed to cut me across the face with the point of his stick. This was a blow which I had not time to intercept, or even to see. The villain, however, happily missed of his intention; for his cudgel being something advanced, only bruised my right cheek, when instantly I gave him an exasperated stroke on the head, and cutting him to the scull, laid him sprawling on the stage, whereat all who knew me gave a great shout.

After some time he rose, and, advancing a little toward me, he stretched out his left hand, as if in token of reconciliation; while pulling out his butcher's knife from a sheath in his side-pocket, he, with his right hand, made a stab at my heart, and suddenly leaping off the stage, attempted to escape.

Immediately the blood poured from me in a stream, and ran along the boards. I found myself growing weak, and sitting down on the stage, I had the presence of mind to open my bosom, and taking out my handkerchief, I held it to the wound.

In the mean time the whole concourse was in an uproar. The cry went about, that Giffard Homely was murdered, Giffard homely was killed. My poor dear Peggy fell senseless from her throne, and

was carried home in the fit. Several horsemen haſted away, of their own accord, for a ſurgeon; and the butcher was purſued and knocked down, hard pinned and conveyed, with following curſes, to the goal of Lincoln.

Among others who came to condole with me, little Maſter Billy Thornhill, our landlord's ſon and heir, came running, and deſired to be liſted upon the ſtage.

As ſoon as he ſaw the blood, and how weak and pale I looked, he broke out into a paſſionate fit of tears: O Giffard, my Giffard, my poor Giffard, he cried, I fear you are a dead man! You will no more be my holy-day companion, Giffard. Never more will you go to birding with me, or ſettinggins for the rabbits, or catch little fiſhes for me; or carry me on your back through the water, or in your arms over the mire. Alak! alak! what ſhall I do, if I loſe you, my poor Giffard!

The ſurgeon came in full gallop. As ſoon as he had ſeen the greatneſs of the gaſh, Say your laſt prayer, my friend, he cried; in a very few minutes you muſt be a dead man. But when he had probed the wound, his face turned to chearfulneſs. A moſt wonderful eſcape, he cried, the weapon has miſſed your vitals, and only glanced along the rib. Be of

good courage ; I engage, in a few weeks, to set you once more upon your legs.

Mean time my loving neighbours made a litter and bed for me of the tents and tent-poles, all striving who should carry me, and all escorting me home.

The good Mr Granger had been that day confined by a sprain in his ankle, and now sat weeping by his child, who fell out of one fainting-fit into another, till she was told that I was brought home, and that the doctor had pronounced me out of danger.

As soon as I was put to bed, and my kind attendants withdrawn, Mr Granger, on a crutch, came limping, and sat down by me. He had endeavoured to restrain his tears before the crowd ; but as soon as he was seated, they broke out anew.

O Giffard, Giffard, he cried ; my dear Peggy is very ill, and you are very ill ; and to lose you both at once would be hard upon me indeed !

Notwithstanding a short fever, the doctor happened to keep his promise, with the assistance of youth and a good habit, and I began to gather strength and recover apace.

As soon as I was up and about, I observed that Miss Peggy seemed no longer desirous of restraining her kind looks,

or her kind offices ; and this gave me some concern, till I also observed that her father took no umbrage or no notice of it.

One evening, as we sat over a tankard of October, Giffard, says he bluntly, what would you think of my Peggy for a wife ? Nothing at all, Sir, says I. I would not marry your daughter, if she would have me to-morrow. Pray why so, Giffard ? Peggy is very pretty, and deserving, as I think, of as good a man as you. Her deservings, Sir, said I, are my very objection ; I scarce know a man in the land who is deserving of her. If that is the case, Giffard, her hand is at your service, with all my heart. O, Sir, I replied, I have no suitable fortune, but I know you are pleased to banter, I am no match for her. You are an industrious and a making young man, said he, and such a one is richer in my eye than a spender with thousands. Besides, you are loving and good-natured, my son ; and I shall not lose my child by you, but gain another child in you as dear to me as herself.

Here I was so transported, so overpowered by the kindness of the dear good man, that I could not get out a syllable ; but, sinking before him, I eagerly grasped his legs, and then his knees,

and rising, went out to vent my passion.

In about a month after, Sir Spranger Thornhill, and my young friend Master William, honoured our nuptials with their presence; and all our kind neighbours came crouding to the solemnity, and by their joy appeared to be parties in our union.

For eight following years never was known a happier family. But about that time Sir Spranger Thornhill sickened and died, and was attended to the dark mansion of the bodies of his ancestors, by the greatest concourse of true mourners that ever was seen in the shire, all lamenting that goodness was not exempted from mortality.

Our dear father could never be said to hold up his head from that day. He silently pined after his old friend and patron, Sir Spranger; and all our cares and careffes were not able to with-hold him from following the same appointed track.

Never, sure, was grief like mine and my Peggy's. In looking at each other we saw the loss that we had sustained; and, while we lay arm in arm, often, often have we watered the good man's memory with our tears.

Time, however, who has many severe sorrows in prospect, helps to soften and lessen those that he brings in his train. An increasing family of children, sweetly tempered like their mother, called for all my concern; and our young landlord, Sir William, whenever he came from college, used to make our house his home, and take me with him wherever he went, till Lord Lechmore, his guardian, took him from the university, and sent him abroad, with a tutor and servants, on his travels.

As I had made considerable savings, and now looked to have a number of children to provide for, I resolved to realize all that I could for the poor things: so I built a malt-house and windmill, and planted a large orchard, with other profitable improvements, that cost me to the amount of about eight hundred pounds.

While these things were in agitation, Sir Freestone Hardgrave, one of the knights for our shire, came into that part of country. He had lately purchased a fine estate, adjoining to the west side of my concern; and was a man of vast opulence, but a stranger among us at that time.

Though Sir Freestone was an old batchelor, and had one of the most remorseless hearts that ever informed the shape of man, he had yet a pleasing aspect, and insinuating address, and always applied those qualities to the purpose of betraying. Alas ! I was informed, but too late, of his character ; that his avarice outgrew even the growth of his wealth ; and that his desires increased in exact proportion as age happened to deduct from his ability to gratify them.

Unhappily he cast a greedy eye at my little farm. Like another lordly Ahab, he coveted the vineyard of poor Naboth ; and, at length, compassed his ends by means equally iniquitous.

When he proposed to give me more than value for it, I answered, that I myself had taken a fancy to it, for the sake of the dear man who had given it to me in trust for his child and her posterity ; and that I would not part with it for twenty times an equivalent. With this, however, he did not appear in the least disconcerted ; but said, that he esteemed and affected me the more for my gratitude to the memory of my old benefactor.

I was afterwards told, and learned by dear experience, that he never pardoned

an offence, nor even a disappointment ; but nothing of this disposition appeared for the present. He visited, made it his business to meet me in several places ; sought and seemed quite desirous of cultivating an acquaintance with me ; did me many little friendly offices among my richer neighbours ; condescended to toy with my little ones ; appeared to take a huge liking to my two eldest boys : stood godfather to my little girl that is now in her mother's arms ; said he wondered how I contrived it to maintain so numerous a family upon such slender means ; and promised to procure me a beneficial post in the collection of the customs.

After a course of such specious kindnesses, and while my heart glowed with gratitude, in the recollection of his favours both passed and proposed, he came to my house in a mighty hurry. My dear Homely, says he, I have just struck up a most advantageous bargain with our neighbour Squire Spendall. But he wants the money immediately. I have not the whole about me ; and yet if I do not pay him down directly, some cursed disappointment may intervene. Do run and bring me all that you have quickly, I

will repay you within two or three days at furthest,

Here I hastened, with joy, to the corner where I had deposited my cash, as well for payment of rent as another little matter that I had in my eye; and, bringing out a leathern bag, I laid it on the table. There, Sir, said I, are two hundred and thirty guineas; take but the trouble to count them out, and give me a short acknowledgment. No, said he, my dear Homely, never heed it for the present, I will be back with you the moment I have paid the purchase; and so saying, he caught up the bag, and huddled away as fast as his old legs could scamper; while I sat still through astonishment, my heart misgiving me at the time, as if it foreboded the mischiefs that were to follow.

I waited, with great anxiety, for his return till evening, when hastening to his lodge, I was there informed, that he had set out for London five hours before. This threw me into a panic, though not altogether without a mixture of hope, and so I waited till the three days of his promise should expire. Mr Snack then came to me, and demanded the rent. He was a Lincoln attorney, whom Lord Lechmore had lately preferred to the care

of my landlord's concerns upon the death of Mr Kindly, the good old agent. I told him ingenuously how matters had happened, and said I would hurry to London, and bring back the money directly.

Accordingly I posted away, and rested not till I arrived at the great city. There, for seven days successively, I besieged the doors of Sir Freestone, hourly knocking and requesting to be admitted to his presence. But he was either not up, or just gone out, or had company with him, or was just then very busy, and not to be spoken to, and so forth.

At length, when he found that I would not quit his house without an answer, he ordered me before him. His chariot waited at the gate, and he stood dressed in the hall. As I approached, and bowed with the respect and mortified air of a petitioner, he put on a look of the most strange and audacious effrontery I ever beheld. Who are you, friend, said he; and what may your business be with me? I am come, and it please your Honour, humbly to tell you, that I am called upon for my rent, and to beseech your Honour to restore me the two hundred and thirty pieces you had from me the other day. Here, says he to his servants, this must be some desperado, who is come to

rob me in broad day, and in the middle of my own people : the fellow says I owe him money ; I know not that ever I saw his face before ; I desire that you will not suffer such a dangerous villian to enter my doors any more. And so saying, out he stepped, and away he drove.

O, Sir, how I was struck to the heart at that instant ! I sneaked out scarce half alive, not remembering where I was, or whither I was to go. Alas ! I was far from making the speed back again that I had done in going. I knew not how to shew my face to my Peggy, or her dear little ones, whom I had plundered and stripped of their substance, by stupidly surrendering it without witnesses, or a single line whereby I might reclaim it. At length I got home, if home it might be called, that had then nothing in it, or at least nothing for me.

Mr Snack had taken the advantage of my absence, to possess himself of my farm, and of all that I was worth. Under colour of distraining for rent, he had seized every thing, even the beds whereon my wife and children lay, with all their wearing-apparel, save what they had on their backs. The bill of appraisement, which I have here, comes to upward of six hundred pounds. But when the cattle

and other effects were set up to sale, the auctioneer and bidders proved of Mr Snack's providing; all were intimidated from offering any thing, save those who offered in trust for this charitable agent; and the whole of my substance went off within the value of one year's rent, being one hundred and eighty-five pounds.

Never, exclaimed Mr Fenton, never did I hear of so barefaced and daring a violation of all laws, divine and human, and that too under sanction of the most perfect system of law that ever was framed. But what will not power effect, when unrestrained by conscience, when prompted by avarice, and abetted by cunning! And is there no remedy, Sir? cried out our hero. None that I know of, my Harry, save where power opposes power in favour of weakness, or wealth opposes wealth in favour of poverty.

But we will see what may be done. Meanwhile let Mr Homely proceed in his narrative.

When my family, continued *Homely*, were thus turned out of doors, an old follower made way for them in his own cottage, and retired with his wife and daughter to a cow-house hard by. Meanwhile my loving neighbours supplied them with sufficient bedding, and daily

kept them in victuals, even more than they could eat.

While I went slowly to see them, stopping and turning every minute toward our old habitation, all the horrors of our situation flew upbraidingly in my face, and I accused myself as the robber and murderer of eight persons, for any one of whom I would have spent my life.

When I stooped to enter their lowly roof, all trembling and sick at heart, I expected to meet nothing but faces of aversion, and expressions of reproach; but when they all set up a shout of joy at my appearance, when they all crowded, clasping and clinging about me, the violence and distraction of my inward emotion deprived me of sensation, and I swooned away.

When I revived, I cast a look about me, and perceived that their grief had been as extreme as their joy was at my arrival. Ah, my Peggy! I cried, how have I undone you! By you I got all my possessions, and, in return, I have deprived you of all that you possessed. You were every blessing to me, and I have repaid you with nothing but misery and ruin.

Do not be concerned, my love, said she, nor repine at the consequences of your own goodness and honesty. You are not as God to see into all hearts ; the wisest may be deceived ! and the best, as I believe, are the most subject to be imposed upon. Common charity must have supposed, that there could not be such a soul as Sir Freestone upon earth. But be of good courage, my husband, I have good news for you ; I dreamed that our dear father appeared to me last night ; Do not be disheartened, my child, says he ; bear the cross that is laid upon you with a chearful and free-will, and all shall be restored to you seven fold upon earth, and seventy-seven fold in the life that has no ending.

When I found that my Peggy, instead of distaste and upbraiding, had nothing but love in her looks, and consolation in her expressions, I folded her to my bosom, and to my soul that went to meet her, and I would willingly have made her one with my own being.

My neighbours were not as birds of the season ; they neither despised nor forsook me because of my poverty ; they came crowding to condole with me ; they advised me to apply to the law against Sir Freestone and attorney Snack ; and

they offered to contribute towards my journey ; they also joined in this written testimony of my character and prosperous circumstances before Snack made his seizure ; and two of them have witnessed, in this bit of paper, that when the alarm came of Mr Kindly's death, and of a strange agent being put in his room, they heard me say, that I did not matter the worst he could do, and saw me count down twenty pieces over and above my year's rent.

The late frights and fatigues which Peggy underwent during Snack's operations, together with her extremes of joy on my return, and of grief at the fit into which I had fallen, hastened on her labour, she was delivered before her time of that weakly little babe whom I buried this morning.

Within six weeks after her childbirth, we prepared for our journey. Our neighbours, like the good Samaritan, had compassion upon him who fell among the thieves. They made me up a purse of thirty-five pounds, and promised to contribute further toward the carrying on of my suit.

We travelled happily, by easy journies, for a few miles a-day, till, nine days ago, we reached a small village the other side

of St Alban's ; there we took up our rest for the night, at a house that had no sign, but let occasional lodgings, and sold bread and small beer.

As I desired a separate apartment for ourselves, we were put into a kind of waste room, that had no fastening to the door, except a latch. After a slender supper, we lay down to sleep, and I stuffed my breeches close under my head with all possible caution. We had made an extraordinary journey that day, and I was particularly fatigued by carrying several of my tired children successively in my arms ; so that we all slept but too soundly, and when I awoke in the morning, neither money nor breeches were to be found.

Such a loss, at another time, would have been as nothing to me ; but, in our present circumstances, it was a repetition and doubling of all that we had lost before. I instantly summoned the people of the house, and, in a good deal of warmth, charged our landlord with the felony, telling him, that I had been robbed of above thirty-three pounds. Why, Master, says he, I know nothing to the contrary ; but it would be very hard, indeed, if I was to be answerable for the honesty of every one who goes this road. If you had given your money in charge to me,

I would have been accountable for it. I believe, by the grief you are in, that you must have been losers; I will therefore forgive you your reckoning, and give you a pair of breeches of my own into the bargain; but this is all I will do, till the law forces me.

As there was no remedy, at least for the present, I accepted his overture, and set out. But, O Sir! it is impossible to describe the horrors of my soul as I silently stepped along, casting an eye of mingled pity and despair upon my children. I cursed in secret my own existence, and wished for some sudden thunderbolt to crush me into nothing. All trust in God, or his providence, had now wholly forsaken me, and I looked upon him as neglecting all other objects of his wrath, and exerting his omnipotence against me and mine alone.

Peggy, as I suppose, perceived how it was with me, and kept behind a while, that she might give way to the present tumult and distemper of my mind; at length, hoping to administer some matter of comfort to me, she came up, and silently put a few shillings into my hand, saying, Courage, my dear husband, all cannot be lost while we have a God, who is infinitely rich, to depend upon. Ay,



said I, these are the fruits of your dreams, these are your promised blessings that heaven had in store for us. And still has in store, she replied; the same hand that holds the rod, holds the comforting staff also. Tell me not of comfort, I cried, I see that the face of God is set in blackness and blasting against me. But, for me, it matters not, had he not taken me at an advantage. He sees that I have eight lives, all dearer than my own, and he is determined to kill me in every one of them.

Do not cast from you, my love, she said, the only crutch that the world and the wretched have to rest upon. God is pleased, perhaps, to take all human means from us, that he may shew forth the wonders of his power in our relief. While any other hope is left, we are apt to trust to that hope, and we look not toward the secret hand by which we are fed and supported; but, when all is lost, all gone, when no other stay is left, should sudden mercy come upon us, our Comforter then becomes visible, he stands revealed in his greatness and glory before us, and we are compelled to cry out, with unbelieving Thomas, My Lord and my God!

Though these pious expostulations of my dearly-beloved preacher had little influence, at that time, for appeasing my

own passions, I was yet pleased that my Peggy had her secret consolations, but little imagined that her prophesy approached so near to its completion.

For two days we held on, living on such bread and milk as we could purchase at the cottages that had the charity to receive us. But my boy, who was on the breast, grew exceeding sick; so we were obliged to shorten our journies for the two succeeding days, partly begging, and partly paying for such victuals as we could procure. Toward evening we came within sight of this town. Our little money was quite exhausted, and our child grown too ill to bear further travel; so I looked about, and perceived some roofless walls that stood off from the highway, and thither we turned, and took up our bleak abode.

For the three following days I frequented the road, and, by begging, procured what scantily kept my family from perishing. Mean time my spirit was tamed and subdued by the habit of mortification, and I looked up to heaven, and cried, Pardon, pardon, O my God! the offences and blasphemies of my murmurings against you! You formerly blessed me with an over-abundance of blessings, and that too for a long season; and, as Job

justly says, Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?—O Friend and Saviour of sinners ; if thou lovest whom thou chasteneth, and receivest those whom thou dost scourge, when death shall have put a period to the sufferings of mortality, may I not humbly look to find grace at the footstool of the throne of thy mercy ?

At length our child died this morning, and we buried him in our hovel, and watered his grave with the tears that we shed for him, and for each other. The rest Sir, you know, till this angel of God was sent, to accomplish the prediction of my Peggy in all its fulness.

Here Homely concluded ; and, after a pause and a deep sigh, Mr Fenton demanded, Have you told me the whole of your history, Mr Homely ? I have, so please your Honour, through every particular of any signification.—I am sorry for it. Pray think again. Did you never meet with any adventure that is yet unrecited ? Did you never save any person at your own peril?—No, Sir,—O, now I recollect.

Some two or three-and-twenty years ago, as I fled from the bailiffs who pursued me, as I told you, for the bail of my brother, I came to the river Avon :

the flood was great and rapid after the late rains, and I thought of looking for a place of smoother water for my passage, when a gentleman and lady, attended by a train of servants, came riding along the banks. As they rode, chatting and laughing, a fowler, who was concealed in a copse just at hand, let fly at a bird; whereupon the fiery horse that the gentleman was on took fright, and, with a bound, suddenly plunged into the current; whereat the lady gave a loud shriek, and fell senseless to the ground. The horse rose without his rider, and swam down the stream. Soon after the rider appeared, and the attendants were divided between their care of the lady and their lamentations for their master on the edge of the bank. Then, seeing no other help, my heart smote me, and I cast myself in without reflection. I kept aloof, however, for fear he should grapple at me, and sink us both together; so I supported, and shoved him before me toward land, till having reached the bank, I laid hold on it with one hand, and with the other raised him up within the reach of his servants, who had stretched themselves flat upon the brink to receive him; then, being already drenched, and having no-

thing further to do, I turned, and swam over, and so made my escape.

Did you ask the name of the party whom you saved in the manner you say? No, truly, Sir, there was no leisure for such an inquiry.—Why did you not wait for the recompence that was so justly your due for so great a deliverance?—Recompence! please your honour, I could have done no less for the beggar that begs at the corner.

Noble, noble fellow! exclaimed Mr Fenton, I am he, I am he whom you saved that day, my brother!—And so saying, he arose, and caught Homely in his arms, and pressed, and pressed him over again, to his bosom: While Harry all impatient, seized hold of Homely also, and struggled hard to get him to himself from his father.

When they were something composed, and all again seated. Ah, Homely! says Mr Fenton, I have sent and made many inquiries after you, but not for many years after the day in which you saved me. I hated, I loathed you for having prolonged my life to such a misery as no other man ever endured. O——h, that lady! that lady!—But no matter for the present——(and, so saying, he wiped the swelling tear from his eye.)

—Tell me, Homely.—That devil, Sir Freestone!—I am not of a malicious temper, and yet I wish for nothing more than full vengeance on his head.—Don't you believe that he went to you, with a felonious intention of defrauding you of your property?—Believe it, Sir! I can swear it. The circumstances, and their consequences, are full evidence thereof.

Very well, said Mr Fenton, though we may not be able to carry a civil action against him; we may assail him with better advantage in a criminal way. I will draw up and take your deposition myself; and, to morrow, I will send you with a note to Lord Portland, where more may be done for you, my Homely, than you think.

In the mean time, you and your family shall take up your abode in the back part of my house, and from thence you shall not depart, till, as your Peggy's dream has it, all your losses shall be restored to you sevenfold upon earth; what your portion may be in heaven, must be your own care; and may the Spirit of grace guide you in the way you should go!

Early the next morning, Mr Fenton sent Homely to London with his depo-

sition, and several papers, accompanied by a letter from himself to Lord Portland. In the evening Homely returned, and entering with a face of triumph, he seized Mr Fenton's hand, and eagerly kissing it, Blessed, blessed be the hand, he cried, that hath the power of God, among men, for good works. When I sent in your Honour's letter, I was not detained a moment. His Lordship made me sit down, perused my papers with attention, questioned me on the particulars, grew inflamed against Sir Freestone, and gave him two or three hearty curses for an execrable villain. He then called a gentleman to him who was in waiting, and ordered an attachment to be instantly issued against the knight. It was accordingly executed upon him, and he now lies in Newgate. God be praised ! said Mr Fenton, so far there is equity still extant upon earth.

It is not unnatural to suppose, that Mr Fenton's family were immoderately fond of those whose father had saved the life of their most dear master. Mr Clement, in particular, took pains and pleasure in forwarding the boys in their letters ; and Mrs Clement passed most of her time very happily with Peggy and her little girls.

Frank, the butler, had been abroad upon an expedition at the time that Mr Homely's family arrived, and did not return till Homely had come back from Lord Portland's. He was then informed, with joy, of the guests they had got; and he waited with impatience, till the man he longed to see should come out from his master. As soon as he appeared, he caught one of his hands in both of his, and looking lovingly at him, cried, Do I once more behold that happy face, Mr Homely? I was the man to whose hands you delivered my precious lord from the devouring of the floods. Gladly, Heaven knows, would I have sacrificed my own life for the salvation of his. But, alas! I had no skill in contending with the waters, and the sure loss of my own life would not have given the smallest chance for the recovery of my master. You are the person, Mr Homely, to whom God committed that blessed task and trust: and Mr James, and I, and all of us, have agreed to make up a hundred pounds a-piece for your children, in acknowledgment of the benefit you did us on that day.

Here Homely took Frank very affectionately into his arms, and, with a faltering voice, said, Your offer, Sir, is dear,

very dear, indeed, unto me, as it is a proof of that love which you all so warmly bear to our common lord and master. If there is any occasion, I will not refuse this extraordinary instance of your benevolence ; but our master's influence and bounty are doing much in my behalf : and, in the mean time, I will take it as a very particular favour, if you will be pleased to introduce me to my fellow-servants of this house.

Within the following fortnight, a servant in a rich livery came on a foaming horse, and, delivering a letter at the door, rode away directly. The letter ran thus :

TO HENRY FENTON, Esq ;

“ DEAR SIR,

“ The trial of our recreant knight is
 “ at hand ; and, if you insist upon it,
 “ shall be prosecuted to the utmost ex-
 “ tent of our laws. The wretch, indeed,
 “ deserves to be gibbeted. But he has
 “ relations of worth and consideration
 “ among us. They have besought me to
 “ shield them from shame on this occa-
 “ sion ; and I join them in requesting you
 “ to accept the inclosed order for three
 “ thousand pounds, in favour of your
 “ client, together with his farm and es-

fects, which attorney Snack shall immediately restore.

“ Let me have your answer within three days ; and believe me

Your true,

as well as obliged servant,

PORTLAND.”

The day following Mr Fenton sent Harry, in his chariot, attended by Mr James and two servants in livery, to return his acknowledgments to the favourite of the King.

Lord Portland received our hero with pleasure and surprise equally evident in his countenance. As he piqued himself on being one of the finest personages in the nation, he secretly respected his own resemblance in another.

After a few mutual compliments, and some occasional discourse, the Earl told Harry that he must take a private dinner with him. We are quite alone, says he, only two viscounts, a baronet, and four or five gentlemen of the ministerial quill. Pray, my Lord, said Harry smiling, is a dinner the whole of their pension ? Not so, Sir, I confess ; they are the Swiss of the lettered world, and fight for pay. They were formerly of the opposite jun-

to ; but they have changed their oppinions along with their party ; and our honour obliges us to give them at least as much in the cause of the crown, as they formerly got in the cause of the populace. I doubt, my Lord, returned Harry, that their silence would answer your ends full as well as their oratory, unless your treasure could hold out in bribing people to read also. Very pleasantly severe indeed, replied the laughing Earl. But come, the bell calls us to dinner.

When dinner was over, and chearfulness circulated with the bottle, I would give a good deal to know, Mr Harry, said the Earl, what you and your father think of his Majesty and his ministers ? Should I speak my downright sentiments, my Lord, answered Harry, in some things I might offend, and in others appear to flatter. O, you cannot offend in the least, cried the Earl ; we are daily accustomed to be told of all the faults whereof we are, or may be, or might have been guilty ; and as to flattery, you know it is the food of us courtiers. Why, my Lord, you want no champion for the present, said Harry : you are all, as I perceive, on one side of the question ; and, if some one does not appear, however impotent, to oppose you, the shuttle-

cock of conversation may fall to the ground. Right, very right, my sweet fellow, rejoined his Lordship; proceed, you shall have nothing but fair play, I promise you.

To be serious, then, said Harry, my father thinks, in the first place, (for I have no manner of skill in such matters,) he thinks, I say, that his Majesty is one of the greatest warriors and one of the wisest statesmen that ever existed. He thinks, however, that he has attachments and views that look something further than the mere interests of the people by whom he has been elected; but he says that those views ought, in a measure, to be indulged, in return for the very great benefits that he has done us. He is, therefore, grieved to find that his Majesty has met with so much reluctance and coldness from a nation so obliged.

You are a darling of a politician, exclaimed the Earl; but we will not thank you for your compliments, till we know what you have further to object against us.

My father admits, my Lord, that his Majesty and his ministers have re-established and exhibited, in a fair and open light, the most glorious constitution that ever was constructed. But then he ap-

prehends, that you are beginning to sap the foundations of the pile that you yourselves erected.

As how, my dear young Mentor? By being over-bounteous in paying former friends, and by being still more profuse in procuring new adherents.—Child of honour, cried the Earl, another, less elegant than yourself, would have said, that we are sapping the constitution by *bribery* and *corruption*. You have, indeed, my Harry, delicately tempered your admonitions, even like the cup of life, the sweets with the bitters. But what say you, Gentlemen, shall a babe lately from the breast bear away the whole palm from people grown grey in politics?

The young gentleman, says Mr Veer, (the principal of the court-writers,) talks wonderfully for one not versed in the subject of which he treats. The people of England are stupidly proud and licentious; ungovernable; they are the most ignorant, and yet most obstinate of any people upon earth; it is only by their being selfish that they become in any degree manageable; if their voices were not bought, they would either give them to persons of their own stupid cast, unknowing in our laws or our constitution, or to men of any

antimonarchial and republican spirit, who would be perpetually putting rubs before the wheels of good government.

I never knew till now, Sir, returned Harry, that, in order to make people true to their country and their King, that is, in order to make men honest, it was necessary to corrupt them. But I have still good hopes, that the picture which you have drawn of our governors is not altogether a just one.

Governors ! cries Veer, I spoke not a word of governors. You spoke of the people, Sir, says Harry, and they, as I take it, are our governors. The people our governors ! this is the most wonderful and the newest doctrine that ever I heard. A doctrine even as old as the constitution, rejoins Harry : They are not only our governors, but more absolutely so than any so styled. His Lordship is the only man in company whose person, in some instances, is exempt from their jurisdiction, but his property remains still subjected to their decision.

No law can be made in Britain but by the people in their proxies : And, when those laws are made, the people are again constituted the judges thereof on their *jury tribunals*, through their respective shires ; as also judges of facts and right,

whether civil or criminal, throughout the realm.

Thus their privilege of making laws for themselves in PARLIAMENT, and of judging of the said laws (when made) on JURIES, composes, as it were, a rudder whereby the people are admitted (gloriously) to steer the vessel of their own commonwealth.

Would it not be a pity, then, that so great a people should be no other than such as Mr Veer has described them, a parcel of ignorant, licentious, selfish, base, venal prostitutes, unenlightened by reason, and uninfluenced by conscience?

If they should be reduced, if it is possible, I say, that they should ever be reduced to so very vile and deplorable a state, it can only be by the very measures that Mr Veer had recommended. The character, as ye know, of a certain old tempter is not over amiable, and I should be sorry that any whom I love and respect should fall in his steps.

And now, Gentlemen, take the argument home to yourselves. The people have the disposal of our lives, liberties, and properties. Which of you then would like to have life itself, and all that is valuable in it, at the arbitration of a pack of wretches, who, being wholly self-

ish, can have no kindred-feelings or compassion for you? who, being themselves devoid of honour and equity, cannot judge according to the one or the other; who, being already accustomed to influence and prostitution, have their ears and hands open to all who would whisper or bribe them to your prejudice?

I, as a fool, Gentlemen, utter the dictates of wisdom, for I speak the sentiments of a much wiser and much better man than myself. Should a general corruption take place in the land, adieu to all virtue; adieu to humanity, and all social connections! all reason and law, all conscience and magistracy, all public and private weal, must vanish or be confounded in one chaos together. And from hence it is self-evident, that he who debauches the morals of the least of his Majesty's subjects, is an enemy to his King, to his country, and mankind,

I protest, said his lordship, with some little confusion, I never beheld this matter in the same light before; but I shall take care to inspect and examine it at better leisure.

Here the company rose to separate; when Harry stepping towards Veer with an affectionate pleasantry in his countenance, Mr Veer, says he, I fear I have

misbehaved a little to-day; I am naturally warm, and am apt to be too much so on particular subjects. O Sir, says Veer, I am an old prize-fighter, and accustomed to cuts; but I now know my man, and shall hereafter avoid engaging, or keep barely on the defensive; do me the honour, however, as old combatants were wont, to shake hands, at parting, in token of hearts free from malice. In the contest of love, Mr Veer, you never shall foil me, cried Harry.

Now, my Lord, if you have any commands for my father, pray let me have the pleasure of being your messenger. Upon my honour, my dear boy, and that is the oath of a lord, you shall not part from me for this night at least. My father Sir, will be uneasy. I will dispatch one to him directly; I have particular designs upon you; you must go with me to the levee; I cannot refuse myself the pleasure of introducing you to his Majesty; I expect to get credit by you. I rather fear, my Lord, that I may do you some disgrace.

O, cried the Earl, you think you are not fine enough. Why, truly you will see folk there of much more lustrous attire. But let others disgrace their ornaments; be you humbly content, my

child, with adorning your dress. Harry blushed, and bowed.

When they arrived at court, the Earl left his young friend a while in the levee-room, and went to impart some matters to the King in his closet.

While our hero stood in the crowd, some one came and pinned a paper to his back, whereon was written in capital letters, THE FOOL.

However, it did not remain long enough to do him much disgrace. A young gentleman, of a graceful figure, and very amiable aspect, pressed close behind Harry, and gently stole the writing away; then, taking him by the hand, requested to speak with him apart.

I wonder, Sir, said the stranger, who it was that could be so malicious, or so base, as to fasten this title on your back; I am certain he must never have seen your face. O, Sir, said Harry, blushing and smiling together, this must have been the office of some old acquaintance; it is the title to which I have been accustomed from my infancy, and I am well contented to carry it with me to the grave; I am much affected, Sir, however, by this uncommon instance of your humanity to an unknown; pray add to the obligation, by

letting me know to whom it is that I am so endearingly bound.

My name, Sir, is Thornhill. I am just arrived from my travels; and I would willingly go my long journey over again to become just such another fool as you are.

Harry seized him by the hand, and gave him at once the squeeze and the look of love.—Sir William Thornhill, I presume?—The same, my dear Sir.—I have been enamoured of your character before I saw you, Sir William. My name is Harry Fenton; I live on Hampstead-hill; I see that your pleasure lies in communicating pleasure, I am therefore persuaded you will indulge me with a call at some leisure hour.—I will not defer that advantage a single day.—I shall have the longings of a lover till you arrive.

Here the King entered, and all converse was broken off. Lord Portland, looking about, discovered Harry, and, taking him by the hand, led him up, and left him standing before his Majesty. Then, approaching the Royal ear, May it please you, Sire, says he, this is the son of the gentleman who advanced us two hundred thousand pounds on our expedition from Holland.

The King turned to Harry with a solemn and piercing look; and, having eyed him for some time, he again turned to the Earl, and cried, Ay, Portland, this is something, this, indeed, is a gem fit to set in the crown of a monarch. He then reached forth his hand, and, while our hero stooped to kiss it, he pressed Harry's shoulder with his other hand.

My dear child, said the King, we are much obliged to your father. You, by inheritance, are attached to our crown, and you may justly demand whatever we can bestow. We humbly thank your Majesty, answered Harry; we only claim the privilege of serving you with all our hearts and all our powers.

Which would you chuse, the army, or the court? Indeed I should best like to have you about my own person. That is the pitch to which I aspire, answered Harry, as soon as I am capable of so high a duty.

But why have you been such a stranger? said the King; had we seen you before, I think we should have not forgot you. O Sire, said Harry, I am but as a bird from the nest, and this is the first of my unfledged excursions. If a bird, cried the king, it must be a young eagle. Not so, Sire, answered Harry, I should then

better support the brightness of the sun that is now before me.—I would give one of my kingdoms that you were my son.—I am already one of the millions of happy sons and daughters who have the glory of calling you their royal father ! So saying, our hero bowed twice, and drew back ; while the King looked toward him in silence and wonder.

After some talk with his courtiers his Majesty retired. And Lord Portland took Harry, and was followed by a number of the young gentry to the ball-room.

There the Queen, at the upper end, was seated under the canopy, her maids of honour attending, and two brilliant ranges of foreign and British ladies were seated on either hand.

The Earl gave a whisper to the master of the ceremonies, and he immediately led Harry up to the presence, where he had the honour of kissing Queen Mary's fair hand.

After some whispering chat between her Majesty and Lord Portland, the ball was ordered to be opened by our hero and the lovely young Princess of Hesse.

All eyes were fixed upon them with attention still as night, while they moved, like Homer's gods, without seeming to

press the ground, or like a mist before the breeze along the side of some stately hill.

As soon as the minuet was closed, the Princess said softly to Harry, in French, *The Louvre*, Sir, if you please.

This was a dance of the newest fashion, and was calculated to shew forth and exhibit a graceful person in all possible elegancies of movement and attitude.

As soon as they had finished, the whole assembly could scarce refrain from breaking forth in loud plaudits, as at the public theatre; and a humming of mixed voices and patting feet was heard throughout.

When Harry had led the Princess to her seat, and left her with a bow of the most expressive respect, he happened to see Lady Louisa's brother, and hinting to the Lord Chamberlain his desire to dance with her, his Lordship readily indulged him.

When Harry had finished, the Lord Chamberlain honoured Sir William Thornhill with Lady Louisa's hand; and, after four or five more minuets, the country-dances began; in which all the younger part of the company joined, except Lord Bottom, who refused to step

forth, and sat apart ruminating and feeding on his own cogitations.

The Princess and our hero led up the dance, and Louisa and Sir William were appointed the next in course, in order to do the principal honours to the two young strangers.

In the intervals of dancing, Lady Louisa took occasion to say to Harry, You are a great stranger, Sir, but we desire you should be so, since we did not treat you with the respect that your merit should have commanded. That, Madam, answered Harry, is not wholly the cause of my distance; but there are persons whose loveliness is more formidable to me than an arrangement of sabred Hussars with their fierce-looking mustachoes.

Harry had no sooner said this than his heart smote him with remorse; for tho' Louisa was indeed lovely, and he felt for her the propensities and tenderness of a brother, yet she was not of that species of beauty that was formed to fix his heart; and he secretly reproached himself for having attempted to raise the vanity, or draw the affections of an innocent girl, with no further view than of making a parade of his own talents; a

measure, he justly judged, unbecoming a man of a spark of honour or integrity.

As soon as the dances were ended, and that all had mixed and chatted, and roved about a while, Harry observed Sir William coming towards him in a little fluster. What is the matter, my friend, says Harry, pray what has discomposed you?—Tell me, my dear Harry, that jackanapes in the blue and gold, do you know who he is? I protest, had it not been for the respect I owe the presence, I would have chastised him on the spot. The dance was no sooner done, than he came up with a most provoking sauciness in his look. I wonder, Sir, said he, at the insolence of one of your rank; you ought to have had more modesty than to suffer yourself to be paired with a lady so far above you.

O! cried Harry, taking Sir William very lovingly under the arm, pass this matter over, my sweet friend, I beseech you. That is young Lord Bottom, the very person who, I am pretty confident, contrived the honour of the *pasquinade* on my back this day. But he is brother to the sweet girl with whom you danced. For her sake, for my sake, forgive him, I intreat you; but, above all, forgive him for the sake of his dear father the

Earl of Mansfield, one of the noblest nobles, and one of the worthiest men that ever stepped on English ground. He has been these two years past abroad upon an embassy ; and, while he is promoting the interests of the public, has left his own household unchastened and unguided.

Here the converse of the friends was suddenly broken off. The Lord Chamberlain came, and, tapping Harry on the shoulder, told him that the Queen desired to speak with him.

When he had with a lowly reverence advanced to the throne, You are, said the Queen, the most accomplished cavalier that ever I beheld ; and, had I sufficient youth and beauty, I would chuse you for my knight to bear my fame through the world. I would rather, said Harry, that your Majesty would employ me on some more dangerous enterprize. How is that ? said the Queen. Why, answered Harry, your Majesty's champion could have little or nothing to do, as all would willingly acknowledge the justice of his cause.

You are, cried the Queen, the loveliest and the sweetest fellow I ever knew. My eye has followed you all along, and marked you for my own, and I must either beg or steal you from our good friend your

father. I therefore want no token to put me in mind of you, but you may want some token to keep your friends in your memory. Here are two pictures; the one is the portrait of our master and sovereign lord; the other is the picture of the woman who sits before you, lowly, simple, unadorned; chuse which you please.

Give me the plain picture cried Harry, with a kind of rapture; it shall henceforth become my riches and my ornament

So saying, he bent his knee, and taking the little portrait, he pressed it to his lips with the ardour of an ancient lover in romance. Then, putting it into his bosom, he gracefully arose, and retired from the presence.

O, the fool, the egregious fool! muttered some, Nobly, most nobly done! cried others.

As Harry was following the Earl of Portland down stairs, Lord Bottom came up in the crowd, and, in a half whisper, said, You are too great a man to-day, Sir, to acknowledge your old acquaintance. But not so great a fool, retorted Harry, as not to be taught my distance with those who, like Lord Bottom, have a right to look down upon me.

After a short but sound sleep, Harry hurried home to prepare for the reception of his new friend. He told Mr Fenton that Sir William was returned; how he had been obligingly made known to him in the forementioned instance of his humanity to a stranger; and that he had promised to be with them that morning. But, pray, Sir, don't tell Homely a word of the coming of his landlord, till we place them, as it were by surprise, face to face.

In about an hour after, a chaise and four came rapidly to the door; and Harry instantly sprung out, and caught his friend in his arms before he came to the ground.

The two friends entered the parlour, caressing and caressed, and casting looks of cordial love and delight on each other. My father, Sir, said Harry, and led Sir William by the hand to Mr Fenton, who received him with a countenance of that heart-speaking complaisance which never fails to attach the soul of the person to whom it is directed. Ah, my Harry! cried Sir William, I no longer wonder at you; I see that you are all that you are by inheritance.

But, Sir, continued he, you had like to have lost your son last night. Their

Majesties were most unwilling to quit their hold of him, and, I believe in my soul, would willingly have adopted him the heir of their crown. I should be very sorry, Sir William, replied Mr Fenton, to see a circle about his head that would give him an aching heart. I am sure that is the case with the present royal proprietors. In a limited monarchy like ours, the station of the Prince is looked upon with a malignant eye by the envious, and, at the same time, rendered uneasy by the perpetual contests between rights and privileges on the one part, and prerogative on the other.

Moreover, Sir William, I shall never wish to see one of my child's disposition on the throne of Great Britain. I should be jealous of such a person in behalf of my country. No people could be more tenacious of their liberties than the Swedes, till Gustavus the son of Eric ascended the throne. His manners were so amiable, his virtues so conspicuous, his government so just, and he made so popular an use of all his powers, that his subjects thought they could never commit enough into his hands. But what was the consequence? His successors made his power a precedent for their own, without attending to the precedent of his administration.

Thus you see, that a prince of qualities eminently popular might prove of dangerous tendency to a free people, forasmuch as he might charm the eyes of their jealousy to sleep, and so seduce them from that guard which is ever necessary to preclude the encroachments of ambition.

But, Sir William, may we not order your horses up? You must not think of going till you take a plain dinner with us. A supper too, Sir, most joyfully, answered the Knight. I leave London in the morning on a certain expedition, and shall not have the pleasure of embracing you again for some time.

Mr Fenton then addressing the Baronet with a smile, our Harry here, Sir William, never saw a court before; it is natural therefore to think that he must have been greatly amused, and his young heart deceived by the splendor and parade. But you have seen and observed upon many courts of late; pray what do you think of the entertainment they afford?

As of the dullest of all dull farces, answered the Knight. All the courts that I have seen are nearly of the same cast. Conceive to yourself, Sir, a stage or theatre of comedians without audi-

tors or spectators. They are all actors, and all act nearly the same part of solemn complaisance, and nauseous grimace. Each intends to impose, and yet no one is imposed upon; where professions are taken to imply the very reverse of what they express.

What do you say to this, Harry? said Mr Fenton. I have very little to say, Sir, in favour of the actors, but the actresses, as I take it, afford better entertainment. Here Sir William and Mr Fenton laughed; and Harry, upon a wink, stepped out to bring in Homely, as it were by accident.

Sir William, said Mr Fenton, there is a man come to this house, who once saved my life at the risk of his own. It is a great many years ago, and I have not seen him since the action till very lately. I have sent Harry for him, that you may learn the particulars, and advise with me what recompence he ought to receive.

If the recompence is to be proportioned to the value of the life he saved, my honoured Sir, I should not know where to fix the bounds of retribution, and, in truth, Mr Fenton, from my knowledge of you this day, I also hold myself very highly his debtor.

At this instant Harry led in Homely by the hand, and left him standing directly opposite to the Baronet.

Homely gazed with all his eyes, and stood mute through astonishment—At length he exclaimed, Bless me!—mercy upon me!—as sure as I hope for heaven,—it is—-I think it is, my dear young master!

Sir William, at the voice, lifted up his eyes to Homely, and remembering his marked man, rose quickly, and springing forward, embraced him with much familiar affection; while Mr Fenton sat, and his Harry stood beside him, both wrapt in their own delicious sensibilities.

My dear Homely, my old companion, and brother sportsman! cried Sir William, how in the world comes this about? so joyfully, so unexpectedly to meet you here!—How is your wife and pretty babes? I hope you left all well at home,

Yes, please your honour, they are all well, wonderfully well in this house, I assure you; for indeed your Homely has no other home upon earth.

What you tell me is quite astonishing, replied the Knight; no home for you within the manor and demesne of your friend? What misfortunes, what revolutions, could bring this wonder to pass?

Sit down, said Mr Fenton; pray be seated, Mr Homely, and give your lord a succinct, but deliberate account of the inimitable pair, Sir Freestone, and his coadjutor.

As soon as Homely had told his tale, from the commencement of his distresses to his arrival at the hovel, he stopped short, and said,—I have something more to impart;—but I hope your honour will pardon me,—I am loth to deprive your friends of your company; but then my Peggy and my boys will be so transported to see your dear face again, that I cannot but beseech you to indulge them, a minute or two, with that blessing.

Sir William rose with a troubled humanity in his countenance, and followed to a back apartment, where Homely again stopped him short; and, before he would take him to his Peggy, he there gave him a minute detail of all his obligations to what he called this wonderful family. But pray, Sir, continued he, let them know very little of what I have told you; for nothing puts them to so much pain as any kind of acknowledgements.

After a short visit to Peggy and her children, Sir William returned to his friends, with such an inward awe and

veneration for their characters, as, for a while, sunk his spirits, and solemnized his features. This poor man, Sir, said he, has been miserably treated; but God has been exceedingly gracious to him, in casting the shipwrecked wretch on such a happy shore as this. But this makes no discharge of any part of my duty toward him.

Mark me, Homely, I am now of age, and Lord Lechmore has no further authority in my affairs; wherefore, before I leave this house, I will give you a letter of attorney for the whole agency of the manor. Thank your honour, thank your honour, cried Homely, in a kind of transport! if I do not prove as faithful to you as another, I will do you justice on myself with the first rope I can lay hold on.

As for that reprobate Snack, continued the Knight, I will take care to be up with him. He owes the executors of my father six hundred and seventy pounds. I will have that matter put directly in suit, and, as soon as it is recovered, it shall be laid out on a commission for your son, my friend Tom; as I do not chuse yet to ask any favour from the ministry. Lastly, that you may no more be distressed for rent, I will never accept a penny

of it, till all your children are decently and competently provided for.

O, Sir! exclaimed Homely, I shall be too rich, quite overburdened; I shall not know where to lay my treasures. Not so fast, my good friend, replied Sir William smiling; you have not heard of the drawback that I propose to have upon you: Whenever I reside in the country, you are to have a hot dish, ay, and a cool hog'shead too, ready for me and my company. Agreed, Sir, cried Homely, provided I may have the liberty, during your absence, to drink your Honour's health out of that same hog'shead.—A just reserve, said Harry laughing.—And full as grateful as it is jovial, cried Mr Fenton.—Why, Gentlemen, rejoined Homely, a man of spirit would scorn to accept such benefits without making conditions.

After twelve o'clock at night, and an affectionate and tender adieu, Sir William set out by moon-light for London.

The two following days were employed in preparing for Homely's departure; and a coach and four, with a chaise, were provided for the conveyance of him and his family.

The night before their parting, Mr Fenton desired that Homely and his wife

should be sent to him to his closet. As soon as they entered, he closed the door. My dear friends, said he, as I may not be up in the morning to take a timely leave of you, it might do as well to go through that melancholy office to-night.—Here, Mrs Homely, here is some little matter a-piece toward beginning a fortune for your three pretty daughters. Pray, Homely, take care to have it disposed of for them upon good securities. Here he put three orders upon his banker, for five hundred pounds each, into Peggy's hand; then, turning to Homely, and taking him straitly in his arms, God be with you and your dear Peggy, my Homely, he cried, and give us all a blessed meeting where friends shall part no more!

The distressed Homely was past utterance; but disengaging, and flinging himself at the feet of his patron, while Peggy kept on her knees weeping and sobbing beside him; O, he cried, at length, Next to my God! O next to my Lord and my God.—My Lord and my master, my master and my Lord!

The next morning, before sun-rise, Harry was up, and going to Homely's apartment, embraced him and his wife. He then kissed and caressed all the girls and boys round, and gave to each of

them a gold-medal to keep him in their remembrance; when Homely and his Peggy, with open arms, trembling lips, and swelling eyes, began to take their leave. God be with you, God be with you, sobbed Homely aloud, never, never till I get to heaven, shall I meet with such another dear assembly.

Mr Fenton now judged it time to forward his Harry's education, especially with respect to his knowledge of the world, of the views, pleasures, manners, bents, employments, and characters of mankind.

For this purpose, he proposed to leave Arabella sole regent of his family; and, for a few weeks, to stay with Clement and Harry in London, there to shew him whatever might gratify his curiosity or merit his inspection.

While the coach was in waiting, and they all stood on the hill, the great city being extended in ample view beneath them, Mr Fenton exclaimed: "O! London, London! thou mausoleum of dead souls, how pleasant art thou to the eye, how beautiful in outward prospect! but within how full of rottenness, and reeking abominations! Thy dealers are all students in the mystery of iniquity, of fraud and imposition on ignorance

and credulity. Thy public offices are hourly exercised in exactions and extortions. Thy courts of judicature are busied in the sale, the delay, or perversion of justice; they are shut to the injured and indigent, but open to the wealthy pleas of the invader and oppressor. Thy magistracy is often employed in secretly countenancing and abetting the breach of those laws it was instituted to maintain. Thy charities, subscribed for the support of the poor, are lavished by the trustees in pampering the rich, where drunkenness swallows till it wallows, and gluttony stuffs till it pants, and unbuttons and stuffs again. Even the great ones of thy court have audaciously smiled away the gloom and horrors of guilt, and refined, as it were, all the grossness thereof, by inverting terms, and palliating phrases; while the millions that croud and hurry through thy streets, are universally occupied in striving and struggling to rise by the fall, to fatten by the leanness, and to thrive by the ruin of their fellows. Thy offences are rank, they steam and cloud the face of heaven. The gulf also is hollow beneath, that is one day to receive thee. But the measure of thy abominations is not yet full; and the number of thy righteous hath

hitherto exceeded the proportion that was found in the first Sodom.

That evening they went to the opera, where Harry was so captivated by the sentimental meltings and varied harmony of the airs, that he requested Mr Fenton to permit him to be instructed on some instrument. Not by my advice, my dear, answered Mr Fenton; I would not wish you to attempt any thing in which you may not excel. Music is a science that requires the application of a man's whole life, in order to arrive at any eminence. As it is enchanting in the hand of a master, it is also discordant and grating in its inferior degrees. Your labours have been employed to much more valuable purposes; and I would not, as they say, give my child's time for a song. Harry instantly acquiesced with the best temper imaginable, as the will of his beloved patron was, truly speaking, his own will; and he only wanted to know it, to be at all times, and on all occasions, conformable thereto.

A few following days were employed in visiting the tower, in surveying the armory, regalia, &c. in viewing the monument and exchange; and, lastly, in contemplating the solemnity of West-

minster-abbey, with the marbled effigies and monumental deposits of the renowned in death ; the place, as Mr Fenton affectingly observed, to which all the living must finally adjourn.

The next night they went to the theatre, to see the feats of Signior Volanti, the celebrated Italian posture-master, rope-dancer, and equilibrist. Such wonders are now so common as to be scarce entertaining ; but, at that time, they were received with bursts and roars of applause.

Our hero felt himself attached by the similar excellencies of his own activity in another ; and, going behind the scenes, he accosted Volanti in French. Signior, said he, I have been highly entertained by your performance this night, and here are five guineas in return for the pleasure you have given me. The foreigner looked at Harry, and then at the money, with a kind of astonishment, I thank you, noble Sir, he cried ; my poor endeavours are seldom so liberally rewarded. Pray, how long do you stay with us ? In about a fortnight, so please your Nobleness, I intend to leave London. But, before I go, I would do something to leave a name behind me. A day or two before my departure, I will fly from the spire of Saint Clement's church, in the

fight of all the people ; and this I will do *gratis*, or rather in acknowledgment of the favours I have received in this kingdom. But is it possible to execute what you propose? With all ease and safety, Sir ; I have done nearly as much, three times in Germany, and once at Madrid.

Here an arch thought struck Harry, and, musing a moment, Will you permit me, said he, to be the conductor of this affair? Allow me only to appoint the day, and draw up your advertisement, and I will make you a present of twenty pieces. Agreed, Sir, cried Volante, and twenty thousand thanks to confirm the bargain. Accept these five guineas then, in earnest of my engagement ; my servant, here, will tell or shew you where I am to be found. That night at supper, Mr Fenton remarked an unusual pleasantry in the muscles of his darling's sweetly-sober countenance. My Harry I find, said he, does not always impart all his secrets to his friends ; he has certainly some roguish matter in cogitation. *Magicum calles*, Sir, cried Harry ; you are a conjurer, that is certain. Why, the public, as you know, Sir, have put the fool on me from my birth ; Homer says, that

revenge is sweet as honey to the taste ; and so I am meditating in turn how to put the fool upon the public. And how do you contrive it Harry ? Only by acting the old proverb, *that one fool makes many*. But pray ask me not about the manner, till I bring the business to some bearing.

The next day, being Tuesday, they all went in Mr Fenton's coach to Smithfield, where numbers of tents were set up, and several drolls and pantomimes, &c. prepared, in imitation of the humours of Bartholomew-fair. The weather was fair and calm, and they let down all the glasss, that they might see, without interruption, whatever was to be seen.

Their coach stopped just opposite to an itinerant stage, where a genius, who comprised, within his single person, the two important functions of a tumbler and merry-Andrew, by his successive action and oratory, extorted plaudits and huzzas from all the spectators.

Among the rest a country man, who rode upon a mule, sat gaping and grinning by intervals, in all the ecstatic rapture that can be ascribed to enthusiasm. While his attention was thus rivetted, two knavish wags came, and, ungirthing

his saddle, supported it on either hand, till a third of the fraternity led his mule away from under him, and a fourth came with a three-legged horse, such as house wives dry their linnen on, and, having jammed it under the saddle, they all retreated in peace.

The populace were so delighted at this humorous act of felony, that, instead of interrupting it, it only served to redouble their joys and clamours. Harry too greatly chuckled and laughed at the joke. But when he saw the beast led off, and that the amazed proprietor, on stooping to take the bridle, had fallen precipitately to the ground, his heart twitched him with a kind of compunction, and, throwing himself out of the coach, he made all the speed that the press would admit, and, recovering the mule, brought it back to its owner.

Here, friend, said he, here is your beast again ; take care the next time that they do not steal your teeth. Thank you, Master, said the clown, since you have been so honest as to give him to me back, I will never be the one to bring you to the fizes or sessions. I am much obliged to your clemency, answered Harry, but pray let me have the pleasure of seeing you safe mounted. So saying, he

held the stirrup, while the booby got up, and said, Well, my lad, very well, if we happen to meet at Croydon we may take a pot together.

In the evening they adjourned from coffee to David's-harp in Fleet-street, in order to hear Marmulet, the famed Genoese musician, who performed on the psaltery, the viol d'amor, and other instruments not known till then in England.

They took Mr James with them to partake of the entertainment, and were shewn to a large room, where each paid half a crown at the door.

The room was divided into a number of boxes, where each company sat apart, while they were jointly gratified and charmed by the inimitable execution of the musician.

A flask of burgundy was set before Mr Fenton and his friends, while Mr Hardy and Mr Hilton, who sat in the next box, were regaling themselves with a glass of rosa solis.

All was silence and attention till there was a pause in the performance. Then, said Mr Hardy, Do you know, Jack, that the Earl of Albemarle is to have a mask on Monday night? I am sorry to hear it, said Mr Hilton, as I am obliged to be out of town. I may hap-

pen to save something by that, said Hardy; you must lend me your *domino*. Indeed I cannot; it was torn to fitters in a scuffle, as I came out from the last masquerade. Lend me your mask then. That too was lost at the same time; but what occasion can you have for a mask, Hardy? I'm sure no one will take that for a natural face. Mine is the face of Mars, Hilton; yours that of Adonis, with which no modern Venus will ever be smitten, I promise you. I will engage to outrival an army of such jackanapes in an assault on the fair. If impudence may compensate for the want of other artillery, I believe you may do wonders, Hardy. And it does compensate, my friend. Women, take my word and experience for it, love nothing of their own resemblance except in the glass. They detest any thing that looks like an ambiguity in the sex; while what you are pleased to call impudence, Jack, spares their modesty, saves them the appearance of an advance on their part, and gives them the pleasure of piquing themselves on their extraordinary virtue, in case they should happen to make a defence. However since you have complimented me on my assurance, I will put it to the test on

this occasion ; and go to his Excellency's ball, without any other vizard save this, which nature, in her great bounty, hath bestowed.

When our company were on the return to their lodgings, Harry, said Mr Fenton, would you not like to go to this masquerade ? Why, Sir, as I have not yet seen one, perhaps it might not be amiss to satisfy my curiosity for once in my life. In truth, said Mr Fenton, I wish they never had been introduced into this kingdom, as they are inlets to intrigue, and give countenance to licentiousness. However, for once in your life, as you say, you shall be gratified, my Harry. Be pleased to tell me, Sir, are they very entertaining ? They would be extremely diverting, my dear, if people acted up to the characters that they pretend to represent. But, on the contrary, they have sailors who don't know a point in the compass, or the name of a rope in the ship ; shepherds and shepherdesses who never eloped from the cockney - dialect of the city ; Indian queens who can say nothing as to their subjects or their sovereignty ; gods and goddesses totally ignorant of their own history in the mythology ; and Italian

cardinals who will swear you in the phrase or a Yorkshire foxhunter.

But what shall we do for tickets, Harry? I don't care to apply to my friends, for fear of discovering that we are in town. O, Sir, said Mr James, I am acquainted with his Excellency's major domo, and can procure you as many tickets as you please.

Mr Fenton assumed to himself, for the present, the appointment of Harry's character and dress. As the plainness of your garb has hitherto, said he, been a mask and disguise to your internal ornaments, the brilliancy of your dress shall now, on the other hand, disguise and conceal the simplicity of your manners.

About two hours before the opening of the ball, Harry wrapped himself in a black *domino*, and stepped into a hackney-coach with Mr James, who had promised to introduce him to his friend, in order for him to reconnoitre the several scenes of operation before the action began.

The major domo received Harry with the utmost complacence; for he held his mask in his hand, and the loveliness of his aspect shone with peculiar lustre thro' the blackness of his attire.

After surveying several apartments, they passed through the long-room, and entered, by an arched gateway, into a kind of saloon, at the upper end of which was a pedestal of about five feet in height, whereon a celebrated statue of the Hercules Farnese had formerly stood.

Harry eyed it attentively, and, conceiving a sudden frolic, he instantly cast away his cloak, clapped on his mask and winged helmet, grasped his caduceus with his right hand, and, laying his left on the top of the pedestal, sprung lightly up, and threw himself into that attitude to which the statuaries have formed their Mercury when just preparing for flight.

His headpiece was of thinly-plated but polished gold, buckled together at the joining by four burning carbuncles. His silk jacket exceeded the tint of an Egyptian sky. It was braced close to his body with emerald clasps, that shewed the fitness of his proportion to inimitable advantage; and over the whole, in celestial confusion, were sown stars, of different magnitudes, all powdered with diamonds.

The moment that Harry cast himself into this posture, the major domo started back seven or eight paces, and, raising

his hands, with staring eyes, and a mouth of open amazement, at length he exclaimed, Stay a little, my dear sweet Master! do now, do but stay just as you are for a minute, and you will oblige me past expression, I will be your own for ever.

So saying, he turned off, and, running to an adjacent apartment, where their Majesties, with the Princess of Denmark, the Princess of Hesse, and the chief of the court were gathered, he told his master aloud, that he had the greatest curiosity to shew him that human eye ever beheld.

All rose with precipitation, and crowded after the Earl and the royal pair, as close as decency would admit, till they came to the saloon, and beheld, with astonishment, the person, shape, attitude, and attire of our hero.

Some doubted, but most believed that he was a real statue, placed there by his Excellency on purpose for a surprise. Mr Fielding, who was the acknowledged connoisseur of the age, and was, in fact, what the people of taste call an *elegantis formarum spectator*, exclaimed with some vehemency, Never, never did I behold such beauty of symmetry, such roundings of angles; where, where my Lord, could

you get this inestimable acquisition? others cried, Phidias, Phidias never executed the like; all the works of Praxiteles were nothing to it!

The Earl, however, was well apprised of the deception, and knew that our Mercury was no part of his property.—Son of Maia, said he aloud, what tidings from heaven?—A message, answered Harry, from my father Jupiter to their Majesties.—And pray what may your errand intend?—Matters of highest importance; that they are the favourite representatives of my father upon earth; and that while their Majesties continue the monarchs of a free and willing people, they are greater than if they were regents of an universe of slaves.—All buzzed their applause and admiration.—It must be he, whispered the King;—it can be no other, cried the Queen.—Albemarle, whispered his Majesty, we have marked this youth for our own; keep your eye upon him, and do your best endeavours to engage and bind him to us.

In the mean time, Harry, on delivering his celestial message, flew like a feather from his post, and, casting his cloak about him, vanished into an adjoining closet.

The company now began to gather fast, and Harry, stealing from his retreat, kept his cloud about his sky, and mingled in the crowd. Mr Clement had accompanied Mr Fenton in *dominos*. They soon discovered Harry, and were highly diverted by the account which he gave them of his metamorphosis into a statue.

While the assembly was dividing into pairs and chatty parties, a phenomenon entered that drew all their attention. The Honourable Major Gromly, the lustiest and fattest young man in the kingdom, advanced without a mask in petticoats, a slobbering bib and apron. He carried a large round of bread and butter in one hand, while Lady Betsy Minit, an elderly miss of about three feet high, held his leading-strings with her left hand, and, in her right, brandished a birch rod of lengthened authority. His governante pressed him forward, and seemed to threaten chastisement for his delay; while the jolly, broad, foolish, humorous, half-laughing, half crying, baby-face of the Major, extorted peals of laughter from all who were present. And this is sufficient to convince us, that the performers of the ancient drama could not possibly, in masks excite the passions of nature. No excellence of voice or gesture, of action or

emphasis, could compensate for the exclusion of the immediate interpreters of the soul, the living speech of the eye, and varied expression of the countenance.

After the Major had leisurely traversed the full length of the room, and inimitably executed the whole of his part, he retired to undress, and assume a new appearance.

Mean while, two females entered in very unusual habits. The first was dressed in a choice collection of old English and Scots ballads, from Chevy-Chace and the fragment of Hardy-Canute, down to Barbara Allen and the babes in the wood. The other was all hung from top to bottom with looking-glasses.

Immediately the crowd gathered about them. All who were fond of their own history preferable to that of others paid their homage, in a circling throng, to the queen of the looking-glasses; while the few who preferred instruction were intent in perusing the fair who was covered with knowledge. But the lady of the mirrors did not long retain her votaries; her glasses were all emblems of her own disposition; they were the glasses of scandal and calumny, and represented the human species in the most distorted view;

some lengthened and some widened their objects beyond measure, while others wholly inverted and turned them topsy-turvy. All flunk away in disgust from such prospects of their own persons, and the reflecting lady was justly left to glitter apart from society.

The next who entered was a Goliath, all sheathed in complete steel. He advanced with slow and majestic steps to the side-board, and asking for a flask of champagne, turned it down without taking it once from his head. He then demanded another, and another, and so on, till the provedore, who had looked and longed in vain to see him drop, ran panic-struck to his master, and in a half whisper, said, My Lord, your cellars will scarcely suffice to quench the thirst of one man here; he has already turned down fifteen flasks of champagne, and still is unsatisfied, and calls for more. Then give him fifteen hogheads, replied the Earl laughing, and, if that will not answer, send out for more.

In the mean time, the mailed champion had withdrawn from the side-board and, with a large drinking-glass in his hand, advanced till he got into the midst of the assembly. He then turned a little instrument that was fixed in a certain

part of his double-cased armour, and, filling the glass to the brim, he unclasped the lower part of his beaver, and accosting a Peruvian princess who stood just opposite, Permit me the honour, Madam, says he, of drinking your Highness's health; so saying, the liquor was out of sight in a twinkling. Will your Royal-Highness, continued he, be pleased to try how you relish our European wines? I am obliged to you, Sir, said she, I am actually athirst; then, raising her mask below, she pledged him to the bottom. Her companion, a shining Arcadian, advanced and requested the same favour. Then another, and another lady, and several others in succession, all of whom he graciously gratified, till he was nearly exhausted. Some of the men then pressed to him, and intreated for a glass: No, no, Gentlemen, said he, go and be served elsewhere; I am a merchant for ladies alone, I import no liquors for vile male-animals.

Our former acquaintance, Mr Hardy, had adventured, according to promise, without a mask. After looking about a while for some object of his gallantry, he fixed upon a lady of a very elegant shape and sprightly appearance.

When they had bandied between them some occasional chat, of more smartness than humour, and more wit than meaning, he called for a favourite air, and led the fair one a minute, in which they both performed *assez bien*.

He now began to grow more warm in his addresses. If your face, Madam, said he, should happen to be answerable to the enchantments of your form, and the syren in your voice, I beseech you to keep that mask on for ever; the safety of mankind is interested in my request. But suppose, said she, that my face should happen to prove an antidote to the danger of my other charms? Then Madam, let me see it by all means, and make haste, I pray you, before I am past remedy. I see, said she tittering, I see that you are already more than half a dying man; poor wretch, I pity you, and have taken it into my head to slay you outright, in order to put you out of pain.

So saying, she drew her mask on one side, and shewed him, indeed, a very lovely countenance. But while his flood of complimentary eloquence was just upon breaking forth, Hush, Sir, cried the lady, I will not hear a syllable, till you first return the compliment that I have paid you, and let me see what you have got

under that visard of yours. Here Hardy, in spite of impudence, stood mute with astonishment. The lady burst into a laugh ; the joke was caught, and spread like wild-fire ; the laugh grew universal ; all eyes were on poor Hardy, and a hundred tongues cried at once, Your mask Sir, your mask, take off your mask, for the lady : This was something more than human assurance could stand. Hardy retired with precipitate confusion, and justly suffered for the presumption of his boasted facility of conquests over the fair.

Our hero had hitherto kept himself concealed, being secretly ashamed of the lustre of his apparel ; but, at Mr Fenton's desire, he laid his cloak aside, and instantly all the eyes of the assembly were upon him. In order to avoid their gaze, he advanced into the throng, where a parcel of circling females asked him a number of insignificant questions, to which he returned, in kind, answers pretty nearly as insignificant.

At length a Diana approached, whose diamond-crescent was of the value of a princely ransom. She took him carelessly by the hand, and said, Come, brother Mercury, let us give these mortals a sample of what we celestials can perform.

Lead where you please, Madam, said Harry, I cannot miss my way, while I tread in the light of so fair a moon.

The lady called to the orchestra for a saraband, and all made ample room, attentive to the motions of the shining pair.

The dance began, and the spectators in a manner suppressed their breathing, for fear of giving or receiving the smallest interruption. The performers stepped music, their action was grace, and they seemed with difficulty retained to the floor over which they moved. They ended, and the assembly was still mute with astonishment, till they broke out into a general murmur of praise.

Mr Mercury, said Diana, the story of Argus tells us, that you were formerly accustomed to set folk to sleep; but, for the present, you have opened all eyes to observation. Ah, Madam, answered Harry, could I have guessed at the moon that was to shine this night, I should have assumed a very different character. What character, I pray you? That of Endymion, Madam. I wish, she whispered, that you were a prince, or that I were a peasant; and, so saying, she turned from him, and mixed in the croud.

Harry was next addressed by a shepherdess, and again by a nun. But he declined, as honourably as he could, to tend the flock of the one, or to be the cause of any breach of vows in the other, observing to her, that she had already taken the veil. The boy is a Fool, said she; I know it, said Harry.

A gipsy then accosted, and taking him by the hand, Will you be pleased, Sir, to be told your fortune? said she. By no means, my sweet-voiced Cassandra, answered Harry; I would avoid, above all things, prying into futurity. Knowledge, Sir, is surely desirable, and above all foreknowledge. Not so, said Harry; foreknowledge of evil would but double the misery; and foreknowledge of good would deprive me of hope by certainty; and hope is a blessing, perhaps, preferable to possession. Tell me, Sir, and tell me truly, did you ever yet see the girl that you could like? Yes, Madam, two or three, for whom I have conceived a very tender friendship, but no one yet for whom I have conceived a passion. Ah then, Mr Mercury, said the gentle prophetess, I have only to desire the last east of your office; when I am dead, be so graterul as to waft my friendly spirit

to the shades of Elysium, there to join Dido, and other unfortunate lovers.

So saying, she turned and retired, with a sigh that entered and sunk into the heart of our hero.

The company now began to depart, when the Earl of Albemarle, coming up to Harry, took him a little apart, and, throwing his arm over his shoulder, pressed him to him, and said, My dear fellow, you have done me singular honour this night; pray double the favour to me, by letting me see you again speedily, and as often as you can. For the present, you must not go, till their Majesties have spoken with you. Not to-night, so please your Excellency, answered Harry; at all other times I shall be ready to attend and serve their Majesties, without any mask.

The next morning Mr Fenton was much surprised by a visit from the great man. During breakfast, the Earl pressed eagerly for Harry's attendance at court, and promised every advantage and honour that the crown could bestow. You must pardon me, my Lord, said Mr Fenton. I am willing to advance to you two hundred thousand pounds more toward his Majesty's present expedition against the French, whom I look upon

to be our natural and salutary enemies. They are as Carthage was to Rome, they hold us in exercise, and keep a quarrelsome people from falling out among themselves. Indeed, my Lord, I am desirous of gratifying my royal master with any thing except the sacrifice of my child. I cannot part with him till his education is completed ; and then, if he answers my expectations, I doubt I may be more unwilling to part with him than ever.

In the afternoon our company went again to the tower, to see as well as to hear the recent story of the great lion and the little dog.

They found the place thronged, and all were obliged to pay treble prices, on account of the unprecedented novelty of the shew ; so that the keeper, in a short space, acquired a little fortune.

The great cage in the front was occupied by a beast, who, by way of pre-eminence, was called the king's lion ; and, while he traversed the limits of his straitened dominions, he was attended by a small and very beautiful black spaniel, who frisked and gambolled about him, and at times would pretend to snarl and bite at him ; and again the noble animal, with an air of fond complacence, would hold down his head, while the lit-

the creature licked his formidable chops. Their history, as the keeper related, was this :

It was customary for all, who were unable or unwilling to pay their fixpence, to bring a dog or cat as an oblation to the beast in lieu of money to the keeper. Among others, a fellow had caught up this pretty black spaniel in the streets, and he was accordingly thrown into the cage of the great lion. Immediately the little animal trembled and shivered, and crouched and threw itself on its back, and put forth its tongue, and held up its paws, in supplicatory attitudes, as an acknowledgment of superior power, and praying for mercy. In the mean time, the lordly brute, instead of devouring it, beheld it with an eye of philosophic inspection. He turned it over with one paw, and then turned it with the other ; and smelled to it, and seemed desirous of courting a further acquaintance.

The keeper on seeing this, brought a large mess of his own family-dinner ; but the lion kept aloof, and refused to eat, keeping his eye on the dog, and inviting him as it were to be his taster. At length the little animal's fears being something abated, and his appetite quickened by the smell of the victuals, he approached flow-

ly, and, with trembling, ventured to eat. The lion then advanced gently, and began to partake, and they finished their meal very lovingly together.

From this day the strictest friendship commenced between them, a friendship consisting of all possible affection and tenderness on the part of the lion, and of the utmost confidence and boldness on the part of the dog; insomuch that he would lay himself down to sleep, within the fangs and under the jaws of his terrible patron,

A gentleman who had lost the spaniel, and had advertised a reward of two guineas to the finder, at length heard of the adventure, and went to reclaim his dog. You see, Sir, said the keeper, it would be a great pity to part such loving friends: However, if you insist upon your property, you must even be pleased to take him yourself; it is a task that I would not engage in for five hundred guineas. The gentleman rose into great wrath, but finally chose to acquiesce, rather than have a personal dispute with the lion.

As Mr Fenton had a curiosity to see the two friends eat together, he sent for twenty pounds of beef, which was accordingly cut in pieces, and given into the cage; when immediately the little brute, whose appetite happened to be

eager at the time, was desirous of making a monopoly of the whole, and putting his paws upon the meat, and grumbling and barking, he audaciously flew in the face of the lion. But the generous creature, instead of being offended by his impotent companion, started back, and seemed terrified at the fury of his attack, neither attempted to eat a bit till his favourite had tacitly given permission.

When they were both gorged, the lion stretched and turned himself, and lay down in an evident posture for repose, but this his sportive companion would not admit. He frisked and gamboled about him, barked at him, would now scrape and tear at his head with his claws, and again seize him by the ear, and bite and pull away ; while the noble beast appeared affected by no other sentiment save that of pleasure and complacence.

But let us proceed to the tragic catastrophe of this extraordinary story ; a story still known to many, as delivered down by tradition from father to son.

In about twelve months, the little spaniel sickened and died, and left his loving patron the most desolate of creatures. For a time, the lion did not appear to conceive otherwise than that his favourite was asleep. He would continue to

smell to him, and then would stir him with his nose, and turn him over with his paw ; but finding that all his efforts to awake him were vain, he would traverse his cage from end to end at a swift and uneasy pace, then stop, and look down upon him with a fixed and drooping regard ; and again lift his head on high, and open his horrible throat, and prolong a roar, as of distant thunder, for several minutes together.

They attempted, but in vain, to convey the carcase from him ; he watched it perpetually, and would suffer nothing to touch it. The keeper then endeavoured to tempt him with variety of victuals, but he turned from all that was offered with loathing. They then put several living dogs into his cage, and these he instantly tore piecemeal, but left their members on the floor. His passion being thus enflamed, he would dart his fangs into the boards, and pluck away large splinters, and again grapple at the bars of his cage, and seem enraged at his restraint from tearing the world to pieces.

Again, as quite spent, he would stretch himself by the remains of his beloved associate, and gather him in with his paws, and put him to his bosom ; and

then utter under roars of such terrible melancholy as seemed to threaten all around, for the loss of his little playfellow, the only friend the only companion that he had upon earth.

For five days he thus languished, and gradually declined, without taking any sustenance, or admitting any comfort; till, one morning, he was found dead, with his head lovingly reclined on the carcase of his little friend. They were both interred together, and their grave plentifully watered by the tears of the keeper, and his loudly lamenting family. —But to return.

When our company were on their way from the tower to their lodgings, Sir, said Harry, what we have just seen reminds me of the opinion of my friend Peter Patience, that one who is fearless cannot be provoked. You say how that little teasing, petulant wretch, had the insolence to fly in the face of his benefactor, without offending or exciting in him any kind of resentment. True, Harry, for the lion was sensible that his testy companion was little and impotent, and depended upon him, and had confidence in his clemency, and therefore he loved him with all his faults. Anger, however, in some cases, is not only allowable,

but becomes a duty. The scripture says, "Be angry, but sin not." We ought to feel and fear for others; and lust, violence, and oppression of every sort, will excite the indignation of a generous and benevolent person, though he may not fear for himself.

After supper, Harry appeared to ruminate, and said, How comes it, Sir, that creatures not endued with reason or conscience, shall yet, in the affections that are peculiarly called humane, exceed even most of the human species? You have seen that it was the case between the lion and little dog.

It was the opinion, my Harry, of an ancient philosopher, that God was the soul and spirit of brutes; and this he judged from observing, that what we call instinct was incomparably wiser, more sagacious, and more accomplishing for attaining its end, throughout its sphere of action, than the most perfect human reason. Now, had this philosopher, instead of saying that God was the soul of brutes, barely alledged, that he ruled and dictated within them, he would not have gone a tittle wide of the truth.

God, indeed, is himself the beauty and the benefit of all his works. As they cannot exist but in him and by him, so

his impresson is upon them, and his impregnation is through them.

Though the elements, and all that we know of nature and creature, have a mixture of natural and physical evil, God is, however, throughout, an internal, though often a hidden principle of good, and never wholly departs from his right of dominion and operation in his creatures; but is, and is alone, the beauty and beneficence, the whole glory and graciousness that can possibly be in them.

As the apostle says, "The invisible things of God are made manifest by the things that are seen." He is the secret and central light that kindles up the sun, his dazzled representative; and he lives, enlightens, and comforts in the diffusion of his beams.

His spirit inspires and actuates the air, and is in it a breath of life to all his creatures. He blooms in the blossom, and unfolds in the rose. He is fragrance in flowers, and flavour in fruits. He holds infinitude in the hollow of his hand, and opens his world of wonders in the minims of nature. He is the virtue of every heart that is softened by a sense of pity, or touch of benevolence. He cooes in the turtle, and bleats in the lamb; and, through the paps of the

stern bear, and implacable tygres, he yields forth the milk of loving-kindness to their little ones. Even, my Harry, when we hear the delicious enchantment of music, it is but an external sketch, a distant and faint echo of those sentimental and rapturous tunings that rise up, throughout the immensity of our God, from eternity to eternity,

Thus all things are secretly pregnant with their God. And the lover of sinners, the universal Redeemer, is a principle of good within them, that contends with the malignity of their lapsed state. And thus, as the apostle speaks, "All nature is in travail, and groaneth to be delivered from the evil;" till the breath of the love of God shall kindle upon the final fire, out of which the new heavens and new earth shall come forth, as gold seven times refined, to shine for ever and ever!

Harry, agreeable to his covenant with Signor Volanti, had penned the following advertisement, and inserted it in all the public papers, to wit:—"On Saturday next, between the hours of ten and twelve in the forenoon, the celebrated Dominco Jachimo Tonino Volanti will take his flight from the spire of Clement's steeple, and alight at the

“ distance of two bows shot, on the
 “ Strand ; and this he will perform be-
 “ fore the eyes of all people.”

On the impatiently-expected morning, Harry took Mr Clement with him in a hackney-chaise, and found an innumerable concourse, as well of the gentry in their carriages, as of the populace on foot. London had poured forth its numbers to behold this astonishing sight. The windows were all eyes on every side, and the house-tops were hung with clusters of people as of bees.

After Harry had surveyed the croud with inward titillation, he whispered to Clement, and said, You shall see now, what a sudden discomfiture I will make of this huge army.

He then put forth his head, and said to all around, Do not ye perceive, my friends, what fools we are all made ? Do not ye remember that this is the *first of April* ?

He had scarce spoken the words, when they spread from man to man, and soon were muttered throughout the assembly. And then louder, and more loud, the *first of April, the first of April*, was repeated all about.

The company now began to be in motion. All heads were instantly withdrawn

from the late-thronged windows, and the house-tops began to be cleared with a shameful caution.

Immediately was heard the rolling of many wheels, and the lashing of many whips, while every coachman pressed through the croud, impatient to deliver his honourable freight from the public shame. But the public now began to relish a joke that was so much against their betters; and in peals of laughter, and united shouts of triumph, they echoed and re-echoed after them, *April fools! April fools!*

Among others, Lord Bottom had come with his friend Rakely, in an elevated phaeton, of which his Lordship was charioteer. As they happened to brush close by Harry's carriage, swearing, and puffing, and lashing, and cursing at the croud, Harry cried to his old enemy, You need not be in so violent a hurry, my Lord; perhaps you are not so great a Fool as you imagine.

The fools of fashion were scarce withdrawn, when a long and strong rope was let down from the top of the steeple, to which it was fastened at the upper end. A man then, playing hold on it below, dragged it along through the croud, and braced it, at a great distance, to an iron.

ring that was stapled into a post, purposefully sunk on a level with the pavement. They then brought a large and well-stuffed feather bed, and fixed it under the cord where it joined the ring.

In the mean time Volanti appeared on the top of the steeple, and, bending cautiously forward, and getting the cord within an iron grove that was braced to his bosom, he pushed himself onward, and with a kindling rapidity, flew over the heads of the shouting multitude, poising himself with expanded legs and arms, as he passed, till he was landed, without damage, on his yielding receiver. And, in the very next papers, Harry published the following advertisement, to wit :

“ Before the first of April next, Signor Dominco Jachimo Tonino Volanti, by the help of canvas wings contrived for the purpose, proposes to fly over-sea from Dover to Calais, and invites all his London friends to come and see him set out.”

Harry had now seen whatever London could exhibit of elegant, curious, or pleasing ; and Mr Fenton judged it time to hold up to him the melancholy reverse of this picture ; to shew him the *house of mourning, the end of all men* ; to shew him the dreary shades and frightful pas-

fages of mortality which humanity shudders to think of, but through which human nature of necessity must go.

For this purpose he took him to the GENERAL HOSPITAL, where death opened all his gates, and shewed himself in all his forms. But the great poet, on this occasion, has anticipated all description :

—————Immediately a place
Before his eyes appear'd—sad, noisome, dark.
A lazar-house it seem'd, wherein were laid
Numbers of all diseas'd, all maladies
Of ghastly spasm, of racking torture, qualms,
Of heart-sick agony—all fev'rous kinds,
Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,
Intestine stone and ulcer; cholic pangs,
Dæmoniac phrensy, moping melancholy,
And moon-struck madness; pining atrophy,
Dropries, and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums.
Dire was the tossing, deep the groan—Despair
Tended the sick, busied from couch to couch,
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delay'd to strike, tho' oft invoc'd
With vows, as their chief good.

MILTON.

While Mr Fenton led his pupil through groaning galleries, and the chambers of death and disease, Harry let down the leaf of his hat, and drew it over his eyes

to conceal his emotions. All that day he was silent, and his countenance downcast ; and, at night, he hastened to bed, where he wept a large tribute to the mournfully-inevitable condition of man's miserable state upon earth.

The next day Mr Fenton took him to the Bethlehem-hospital for idiots and lunatics. But when Harry beheld and contemplated objects so shocking to thought, so terrible to sight ; when he had contemplated, I say, the ruin above all ruins, human intelligence and human reason so fearfully overthrown ; where the ideas of the soul, though distorted and misplaced, are quick and all alive to horror and agony, he grew sick and turned pale, and suddenly catching his uncle by the arm, Come, Sir, let us go, said he, I can stand this no longer.

When they had reached home, and that Harry was more composed, Are all the miseries, Sir, said he, that we have witnessed these two days, the consequences of sin ? Even so, indeed, my Harry, all these, and thousands more, equally pitiable and disgusting, are the natural progeny of that wo-begetting parent. Nor are those miseries confined to hospitals alone ; every house, nay every bosom, is a certain though secret lazar-house, where

the sick-couch is preparing, with all the dismal apparatus, for tears and lamentations, for agonies and death.

Since that is the case, Sir, who would laugh any more? Is it not like feasting in the midst of famine, and dancing amidst the tombs?

All things in their season, my dear, provided that those who laugh be as though they laughed not, remembering that they must weep, and provided that those who weep be as though they wept not, having joy in their knowledge that the fashion of this world quickly passeth away.

On the following day Mr Fenton returned to Hampstead, leaving Harry and Mr Clement ability to indulge the benevolence of their hearts.

One evening, as our companions were drinking tea in the Temple-Exchange Coffeehouse, a man advanced in years, but of a very respectable appearance, got up, and addressed the assembly :

Gentlemen, said he, among the several hospitals and other charitable foundations that have done honour to the humanity of the inhabitants of this city, there is one still wanting, which, as I conceive, above all others, would give distinction to the beneficence of its found-

ers; it is a house for repenting prostitutes, an asylum for unhappy wretches, who have no other home, to whom all doors are shut, to whom no heaven is open, no habitation, or hole for rest, upon the face of the earth.

Most of them have been seduced from native innocence and modesty by the arts of cruel men. Many have been deceived under promise and vows of marriage; some under the appearance of the actual ceremony, and afterwards abandoned, or turned forth to infamy by their barbarous and base undoers. Shall no place then be left for repentance, even to those who do repent? Forbid it charity, forbid it manhood, Man is born the natural protector of the weakness of woman; and if he has not been able to guard her innocence from invasion, he ought at least to provide a reception for her return to virtue.

I have the plan of this charitable foundation in my pocket; and if any of you, Gentlemen, approve my proposal, and are willing to subscribe, or to solicit your friends to so beneficent a purpose, I request your company to the tavern over the way.

Here the speaker walked toward the door, and was followed by Harry and Cle-

ment, and thirteen or fourteen more of the assembly.

When the company was seated round a large table, the gentleman produced his plan, with a summary of the rules and institutes for the conduct of the house, which he proposed to call the Magdalene-house: A plan which hath since been espoused, and happily executed by others, without ascribing any of the merit to the first projector.

As all present applauded the manner of the scheme, and intention of the charity, each of them subscribed from a hundred to twenty pounds, till it came to Harry's turn, who subscribed a thousand pounds in Mr Fenton's name.

I suppose, Sir, said one of the company, that your largest contributions will arise from the ladies, as the whole is intended for the benefit of the sex. I shall not, answered the gentleman, apply to a single lady on this occasion. Not one of them will dare to contribute a penny, lest it should be thought that they partly allow, in themselves, the vices that they can pardon or patronize in others. It is this that makes the case of the wretches, whom we are about to befriend, deplorable beyond measure. They are first betrayed by our sex, and then

driven out to irretrievable infamy and misery by their own. For women to women are as turkeys to turkeys ; do but cast a little dirt upon the head of any one of them, and the rest of the flock combine, in an instant, to pick out her eyes, and to tear her to pieces.

Mr Mole, a learned philosopher, and a man of principal figure in the present company, then addressed the projector, and said, If you will admit me, Sir, into partnership in the conduct of your scheme, I will engage to levy contributions to the amount of some thousands, over and above the hundred I have already subscribed. You are heartily welcome, Sir, replied the gentleman, either to join or take the conduct of the whole upon yourself, provided the good is done, I care not by what means ; all my ends will be answered ; I wish to be nameless. That is not fair neither, said another of the company ; you, Mr Goodville, had the trouble of contriving this business, and you ought at least, to have the honour, if not the conduct of your own plan.

Mr Goodville ! Mr Goodville ! exclaimed Clement in a surprize, eagerly staring at him, and recollecting, as from a dream, the altered features of his quondam friend and benefactor. Pray, Sir,

do you remember any thing of one Clement, a worthless young fellow, whom once in your goodness you condescended to patronise? Clement! Clement! cried Mr Goodville, getting up and hastening to him, and catching him in his arms, My dear, my dear Clement, my man of merit and misfortunes, how rejoiced am I to find you! God be praised, God be praised, it is at length in my power to do something material for you. But come with me to another room, I have something to say to you; we will leave these gentlemen the while, to think further of the plan that lies before them.

When Mr Goodville and Clement had withdrawn, Mr Mole, said one of the company, you are concerned in a number of these public benefactions. Yes, Gentlemen, answered Mole, I believe there is no charitable institution of any note in London in which I am not a trustee, and to which I am not a contributor. For, though I do not set up for sanctification by faith, yet I think I may pretend to some justification by charity. Let the vulgar herd pay their priesthood for cheating them out of their senses, I give nothing to the fat impostors, or their lucrative fable; my substance is little enough for myself and the

poor. Why, pray, Sir, said Harry, are you not a Christian? No indeed, Master, answered Mole, nor any man who has sense enough to think for himself. Be pleased then, cried Harry, to hand me that paper a moment; here, Sir, I dash my name and contribution from the list of the subscribers. He who denies *glory to God in the highest*, can never have *peace or good-will toward men*; and so, Sir, you shall never be the almoner of a penny of my money.

You talk as you look, my dear, cried Mole; like one just eloped from the nursery, where you were frightened by tales of ghosts and hobgoblins. I acknowledge, Gentlemen, the benefit and beauty of mortality in its fullest extent; and had Jesus, the Christian prophet, confined himself to his system of moral precepts, I think he would justly have been esteemed the greatest philosopher and legislator that ever breathed. But when he, or rather his disciples in his name, in order to enhance the authority of their mission, pretended to divinity in their master, the low-bred and ignorant wretches pulled together against the grain, and compounded such a strange medley of fighting inconsistencies, and self-evident absurdities, as are wholly everlive of

every principle of right reason and common sense. They taught, that God was made a man: That, in order to expiate the sins of the world, the innocent was appointed to suffer for the guilty: That the sins of all offenders were to be imputed to one who had never offended: and that the righteousness of him, who had never offended, was to be imputed to criminals of the deepest dye: That the Creator submitted himself to the malignity of his creatures, and that God himself died a shameful death on the cross. And this, Gentlemen, makes such a heap of ridiculous incoherencies, such contradictions in sense and terms, as exceeds even the worship of apes and serpents, leeks and onions, and the other garbage of Egypt.

You are a villain, and a thief, and a liar, cried Harry, altogether inflamed with choler. Mole, on hearing these terms of highest affront and reproach, instantly caught up a bottle, and threw it at our hero's head: but it happily missed him, and only bruised the fleshy part of the shoulder of the gentleman who sat next. Harry instantly sprung up, and made at Mole, while the company rose also and attempted to interfere; but some he cast on one hand, and some on the

other, and, overturning such as directly opposed him, he reached Mole, and, with one blow of his fist on the temple, laid him motionless along the floor. Then looking down on his adversary, I should be sorry, said he, that the wretch would die in his present state of reprobacy; here, drawer, run quickly and bring me a surgeon. Then, returning to his place, he sat down with great composure.

After a pause he looked around; I hope, Gentlemen, said he, that none of you are hurt. Indeed I am much concerned for having, in any degree, contributed to your disturbance: But, had any of you a dear benefactor and patron, to whom you were bound beyond measure, whom you loved and honoured above all things, could you bear to hear him defamed and vilified to your face? No certainly, answered one man: No man could bear it, cried another: But, pray, asked a third, how came you to call the gentleman a thief?—Because, replied our hero, he attempted to rob me of my whole estate. He endeavoured to thief from me the only friend I had in the universe, the friend of my heart, the peace and rest of my bosom; my infinite treasure, my never-ending delight! the friend

without whom I would not chuse to be ; without whom existence would become a curse and an abhorrence unto me. Happy young creature, exclaimed an elderly gentleman, I understand you ; you mean your Christ and my Christ, the friend who has already opened his early heaven within you.

By this time Mr Mole began to move ; whereupon Harry rose, and putting his hand in his pocket, Here, Gentlemen, said he, is one guinea for the surgeon, and another for the reckoning. When my companion returns, be pleased to tell him I am gone to our lodgings ; for I will not stay to hold further converse or altercation with that bane of society, that pest, which the rulers in darkness have commissioned to spread contagion, distemper, and death among men.

Harry went early to bed, but lay restless, and much disturbed in his spirit all night. Mr Clement had heard the particulars of our hero's behaviour, which he partly disapproved ; but, as he saw him already dejected, he did not chuse to expostulate with him for the present.

The next day they returned to Hampstead, where Mr Fenton, notwithstanding the constrained smiles of his Harry, observed an unusual cloud and uneasiness

in his countenance. I want to speak with you, my love, said he; and beckoning him into his closet, he took him affectionately by the hand, and made him sit beside him. What is the matter, my dear? said he, looking concernedly in his face; what is it that has disturbed the peace of the bosom of my beloved?

Ah! Sir, cried Harry, I am indeed very unhappy. I doubt that I am partly losing my faith, and the fear of that has given me inexpressible horror. It is like tearing me from a fort, out of which there is no home or rest for me in the universe.

Here Harry made a recital of the late affair to his patron, and having closed his narrative, Is not this very wonderful, Sir, said he, how or where in the world could this Mole have mustered together such arguments against reason, such appearances against truth? How must the vulgar and illiterate be staggered by such objections, when even I, who have been bred, as I may say, at the feet of Gamaliel, have not been able to answer them, otherwise than by the chastisement which the blasphemer received at my hand?

Here Mr Fenton smiled, and said, Do not be alarmed, my love. We shall quickly dispel the thin mists of infidelity

that were collected to shut the Sun of righteousness from your eye. I confess, indeed, that this spawn of Antichrist has compiled a summary of all that has ever been uttered against "the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world;" yet he is but a Mole in nature as well as name; and he, with his brother moles, know no more, and see no further, than the little heap of dirt and rubbish, that the working of their own purblind and floundering reason hath cast about them.

Sacred depths and stupendous mysteries belong to this matter, and when you are able to bear them, they shall be clearly and fully unfolded to you, my Harry: in the mean space, a few simple observations will suffice to re-establish the peace of your sweet and pious heart.

As Christianity was instituted for the salvation of the vulgar, the principal truths thereof are very obvious and plain, and want no learning, no letters, to inculcate or teach them. They speak the language of nature, and all nature is expressive of the sense and the sound thereof. Whatever is within you, whatever is without you, cries aloud for a Saviour. For sin hath been as the Mezentius, of whom you read in Virgil, who bound the bodies of the dead to the persons of

the living. Thus it is that the sin of fallen angels, and of fallen man, hath bound change and corruption, distemperature and death, to the elements, to the vegetables, to animals, and even to the immortal image of God himself in the humanity; so that all things cry out with the apostle St Paul, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" So that all things cry out, with the apostle St Peter, "Save Lord, or I perish!"

These are inevitable truths, my Harry, which all men, at some time, must feel throughout their existence, whether they read them or not. And he alone, who never experienced, nor never shall experience frailty, error, or sickness, pain, anguish, or dissolution, is exempt from our solar system of salvation from sin.

But what sort of a Saviour is it, for whom all things cry so loudly? Is it a dry moralist, a legislator of bare and external precepts, such as your mole-philosopher required our Christ to be? No, my darling, no. The influence and existence of the Redeemer of nature must, at least, be as extensive as nature herself.

Things are defiled and corrupted throughout; they are distempered and devoted to death from the inmost essence of their being; and nothing, under him,

in whom they live, and move, and have their being, can redeem them, can restore them.

O Sir, exclaimed Harry, his countenance brightening up, why could I not think of this? I should then have been able to foil my malignant adversary, even at his own weapons.

Our Jesus himself, continued Mr Fenton, appeals to the truth. I have told you, where he says to the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee. But when the Pharisees thereupon concluded that he blasphemed, he demonstrated his influence in and over the soul by the sensible evidence of his operation and influence in and over the body. What reason ye in your hearts? said Jesus; Whether is it easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Rise up and walk? Then said he to the sick of the palsy, Arise and take up thy couch, and go to thine house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he had been carried, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

Here it was necessary, for the performance of this wonderful and instantaneous cure, that Jesus should instantly operate in and through every member, nerve,

and fibre of the sick of the palsy. And it was equally necessary, for that purpose, that the sick of the palsy should have lived and have had his being in Jesus. In like manner, also, his sins must have been pardoned, by an inward salvation, by imparting to the will of the sinner a new and rectified will, and by informing his spirit with a detestation of evil, and a love of goodness and virtue.

But, pray, Sir, if it is not too profound a mystery for me, be pleased to inform me, how God could be made man? for this was one of the principal objections of Mole.

God was never made man, my Harry. God cannot be debased. He could not degrade himself by any change into manhood, though he could exalt and assume humanity into God. Neither could God die or suffer. To this Christ himself, who was God and man, bears testimony; where he cries out, in the agonies of his suffering humanity, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And again, where, crying with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."—But you are leading me something deeper than I chuse to go, for the present.

From eternity, God saw, that should

he produce any creatures in his own image, to be glorious by his likeness, and happy by his communication, he must of necessity create them intelligent and free ; and that consequently as creatures they must be finite ; and that, as creatures who were free, they should also be fallible.

He therefore saw that all might fall, and he also foresaw that some would fall. But his graciousness had provided *two infallible remedies* for this evil of fallibility. He had provided a *Saviour*, and he had also provided *suffering*. The *Saviour* was to restore them by an inward redemption, by a re-infusion and new birth of his own nature in their essence. And *suffering* was to prepare and open his way, by humbling their pride, by mortifying their lust, and thus compelling them to unfold their hearts to their own happiness.

Indeed, had no creature ever fallen, God could not have been duly glorified to all eternity. Millions of his infinitely-amiable qualities must have lain an inscrutable secret to worlds upon worlds. While all his creatures were happy in him, and participated of him, no distinction could be duly made between them and their Creator. Had evil never been, goodness would have sunk un-

speakingly in the sense of its value, which is now infinitely heightened and glorified by the contrast. Free grace and free mercy on the part of our God, and penitence and thanksgiving on the part of humbled sinners, would have been prevented of their thousand endearing connections. And all the amities and charities, throughout the brotherhood of man; all the melting and fond relations, which the vine Christ infuses throughout his ingrafted branches, bearing blossoms and fruits of divine fragrance and flavour, must ever have remained, unblest and as dead, from eternity to eternity.

But our God, my child, is as powerful as he is gracious and wise, to bring light out of darkness, and life out of death, and infinite and ever-enduring good out of the limited and short state of transitory evil.

To prove that no being beneath himself could stand of their own sufficiency, God permitted his two principal creatures, the most immediate and most glorious representatives of his divine perfections, to fall off from their allegiance, and consequently from their happiness, with all their progeny. The first was the angel Lucifer, who fell through *pride*;

and the second was the man Adam, who fell through *lust*. These two capital sins of *pride* and of *lust* are the genuine parents of all moral and natural evil, of all the guilt or misery that ever did or ever can rise throughout duration; and our heavenly Father, in his love, hath appointed intense suffering, to abate and abase the *one*, to mortify and slay the *other*, that transgressors may finally be capable of his mercy, through the salvation and grace of his Christ.

The first of these arch-felons deemed himself worthy of Deity, and being unexperienced in the power with whom he had to contend, he attempted to arrogate all worship to himself, and to rob his divine benefactor of glory and God-head.

The second of these felons was tempted by the first to aspire, through his own merits, at a god-like independence; to cast off his allegiance to the Author of his being, and to expect intelligence and knowledge from the sensual fruits of this world, after which he lusted. He accordingly took and eat of the tree that was pregnant with all the goods and all the evils of this external, elementary, and transient system; "according to his faith, "it was done unto him;" according to

his lust his desire was accomplished ; his nature became a partaker of temporary nature ; and he fell, with his progeny, into all the depravity and evils that the sin of fallen Lucifer had introduced into these vast regions, now made more exceedingly corrupt and sinful by the sin of fallen Adam.

Why, pray, Sir, demanded Harry, had Lucifer any concern in this world, before the fall of our first parents ?

Yes, my dear ; all the space, that is now occupied by this earth, and these elements, with the sun, moon, and stars, to an inconceivable extent, was once the heaven and dominion of Lucifer and his angels. But when, by their apostacy from the light, and love, and goodness of God, they had caused darkness and malignity, envy, rage, and uproar, and every species of evil and horror, to be predominant throughout their kingdom ; God determined, by a new creation, to take it out of their hands. Accordingly, he compacted it into the present system of temporary nature, whose duration is to be measured by the revolution of our luminaries, until the appointed period of the great consummation, when all the malignity that remains and is compacted therein, shall be finally done away.

To this truth Moses bears testimony, where he tells you, that, at the commencement of the creation, darkness was upon the face of the great deep. And again, where he tells you that the tree of the knowledge of the goods and evils of this world sprung up, even in the midst of the paradise of God. But it is altogether impious and blasphemous to suppose, that God would create evil, or infuse a tendency thereto into any of his works. Again, the same truth is attested by many passages of the sacred writings, where Lucifer, or Satan, tells Christ, to his face, that this world, with all its glories, are his portion and property; that they were delivered unto him; and that he giveth them to whomsoever he will. And again, where Christ calls him, "the prince of the air;" and again, where he says, "The prince of this world cometh, and hath no part in me."

Now, when God, by this new creation, had delivered this system of things from the influence and dominion of evil spirits, they became altogether prisoners in their own darkness. But when Adam, the second lord of this vast domain, by a second apostacy, had brought additional sin and evil into temporary nature, the paradise of God, that was over all, va-

nished ; and the new guilt of Adam opened a new and wide gate, for the re-admission of Lucifer into his ancient possessions. And he remains a prince and a ruler in the elements and hearts of men unto this evil day.

These two capital apostates, Lucifer and Adam, who had thus robbed their kind God of their affections and allegiance, were thereafter represented by the two thieves who suffered in company with Christ, who reached out to each of them a bleeding arm of his mercy. The one accepted his grace, and on that day entered paradise along with his Lord. The other rejected *the Christ* with contempt and reproach, and therefore, if ever reclaimable, must be constrained, by suffering, to open his heart to redemption ; when, after a process of many agonising ages, blaspheming and indignantly spurning at the power of his punisher, he may be compelled to cry out, O seed of the woman ! heal, heal the head thou hast crushed, and admit me also, though last, to some, the least portion of thy pardoning salvation !

These two, my Harry, even Lucifer and Adam, were also the thieves among whom the traveller fell, going from Jerusalem to Jericho, from the city and

place of peace to the place of destruction. He represented the wretched race of fallen man, whom Lucifer, and their first father, had robbed of all their substance, and stripped of their robe of righteousness, and wounded and left half dead in trespasses and sins. Neither did the law or the priesthood avail any thing for their cure, till JESUS, the GOOD SAMARITAN, had compassion upon them, and bound up their wounds, pouring therein the oil of his grace and the wine of his gladness; and expended two-pence, even the two precious pence of his own body and blood, for perfecting their recovery.

But, my dearest Sir, said Harry, if my question does not intrude, pray, how was it consistent with justice that the sufferings of the innocent should atone both for, and instead of the guilty? For this also was one of Mole's cardinal objections.

Your question, said Mr Fenton, falls aptly in its place. When Adam, as I have told you, apostatised from his God, and lusted after the gross and sensual fruits of this world, and fed upon them, and thereupon became a partaker of their nature and malignity, he fell from his paradise and sovereignty together, and he became a poor subject, and miserable

slave, to all the evils and inclemencies of that temporary nature, over which he had been constituted a throned lord and controller.

Here was a deep and a woful fall, my Harry, from sovereignty to slavery, from eternity into time, from immortality into corruption, from bliss into misery, and from life into death! The very state in which the wretched heirs of his fallen nature find themselves at this day. How then was he to rise, if ever to rise again? Could this be effected by any powers of his own? If he did not stand in the state of his strength, how shall he recover and be able to re-ascend in the state of his weakness? How think you, my Harry? A self-evident impossibility, answered Harry.

Here then, continued Mr Fenton, we find the universe of man depraved, fallen and sunk into the darkness of sin and error, into the dungeon of gross and corruptible flesh, and circled about and closed in by the barriers and gates of death. And these prisons were to be broken through, these gates were to be burst open, before he could re-enter upon light and immortality. All the enemies who had conquered man, *sin*, *Satan*, and *temptation*, were also to be conquered.

But how was this to be done? A world lay at stake, and the great question was, Whether the whole race of man should continue in endless guilt and misery, or be restored to ever-enduring purity and blessedness? Wherefore, what all the powers of creation were not able to attempt, Jesus, in the humanity, undertook to accomplish.

Here you see, my child, that justice had little to do in the case. It was not the *justice of punishment*, but the *mercy of deliverance*, that the love of our heavenly Father required. Justice indeed affirmed, that suffering was due to sin, and was the necessary attendant and consequence thereof; and this also the love of our Christ willingly took upon himself. He conquered *suffering* through *sufferings*, and was thereby made the perfect and accomplished Captain of our salvation. He entered into our flesh, he went through all the passages of this vale of tears and region of misery into which we are fallen; through poverty, contempt, rejection, reproach; through all that the rage and rancour of men and devils could inflict, his bloody sweat, and horrors of hell, bonds, buffetings, spittings, scourgings, the bloody mockery of a thorny crown, and all the soul-rending tortures of an ago-

nising crucifixion, till at last he triumphantly cried, "It is finished!" and gave up the ghost. From the cross he descended into the grave; from the grave again he rose in glory, and ascended into heaven, where he led captivity captive, and shewed the powers of darkness bound; that he might lead all the followers of his beatific cross, in his own divine process, to conquest through sufferings, to glory through abasement, to exaltation through humiliation, through death into life, and through the calamities of time to a never-ending, ever-blessing, ever-joyful eternity!

But, Sir, said Harry, was the humanity of our blessed Saviour the same as ours is? for so the scripture seems to intimate, where it says, "he was made man, like unto us in all things, sin only excepted."

This was only spoken, answered Mr Fenton, with respect to his outward humanity. His creaturely soul indeed, and the flesh which he derived from his mortal mother, were even as ours are, sin only excepted. But these were only as the husk or case of his internal and divine humanity, which was conceived from the essence of the FATHER, by the operation of the HOLY SPIRIT, in the

womb of a pure virgin. It was this humanity to which JESUS was intimately united, and that became one with the ever-blessed TRINITY. And it was of the ubiquity of this humanity that Christ speaketh, when he says to Nicodemus, “ No
 “ man hath ascended up to heaven, but
 “ he that came down from heaven, even
 “ the Son of man which is in heaven.” But when the external humanity of Jesus was, by sufferings and death, prepared to be swallowed up in glory, the whole CHRIST was then assumed up into Godhead. He saw all things in Jesus, as they were and shall be from eternity to eternity. And, though the glory of his personal appearance may be visible in certain places, yet he is invisibly present in all places and in all hearts, begetting in them a new birth of his own divine humanity ; that their bodies may also be fashioned like unto his glorious body ; and that, when our corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and when that our mortal shall have put on immortality, “ we all
 “ may be made one, as he is in the Father, and the Father in him, that we
 “ also may be one in them.” An elevation, sure, well worth the hardest striving, the highest ambition.

Thus I have shewn you, my Harry, the inevitable necessity of the sufferings of our innocent Christ for the salvation of guilty sinners. And this also shews you the equal necessity of his taking upon himself the external imputation of the sins for which he suffered! that he might thereby be inwardly imputed to us, and become to us, and in us, the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS; and be to us a better Adam, a second and divine father, regenerating us to a birth of his own heavenly nature. And thus, as the first Adam died unto God, and lived to fallen nature, there was a necessity that Christ, as well in his own person, as his redeemed progeny, should die to the fallen nature, that through him they might live again unto God.

I thank you, I thank you, Sir, cried Harry, I shall henceforth be enabled to give an account, to all who ask, of the faith that is in me. But, pray, did the divine humanity of our Christ suffer in the crucifixion?

I believe it did, Harry, even as our souls are found to suffer in our bodies, though of a nature so very different from them. It was the suffering of this divine humanity that caused such violent repugnance and convulsions in nature; that

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shut up the world from light even at mid-day ; that rent the rocks ; that opened the graves, and gave up the dead to attend their Lord, and revive in the life of his resurrection.

Will you be pleased, Sir, to indulge me in one question more ? Could not God, in his omnipotence, have effected the salvation of man by some other means than the suffering of our dear Christ ? I think, were it to be done again, I would rather forfeit my salvation, than that he should endure such agony on my account.

I will not pretend, my Harry, to give limits or directions to the measures of my God, neither to say what he might or might not do within his own world, and with regard to his own creatures. But it is certain, that he chose the most effectual method for compassing his great and eternal purpose that infinite love could dictate, infinite wisdom contrive, and infinite power execute. O my Harry, how unutterably endeared must this measure make our God to the universe of his creatures, and that to all eternity ! it is herein that the nature of our God is revealed ; it is hereby alone that he could ever have been duly known ; known to be the God of love, to be nothing but love, in this his wonderful work of mer-

cy, transcending mercy; and of grace, transcending grace, that he might bring us to glory, transcending glory.

In this stupendous work of redemption, I say, Jesus makes himself as it were little, that we may become great; he stoops into manhood, that he may exalt us into God. He came, not arrayed in the fool's coat of the lustre of this despicable world, nor in the weakness of its power, nor in the meanness of its dignity; but over his immensity he threw the appearance of limitation, and with time he invested his eternity; and his omnipotence put on frailty; and his supremacy put on subjection; and with the veil of mortality, he shrouded his beauty, that ~~we~~ ^{he} might become familiar to us, that ~~he~~ ^{we} might behold and converse with him face to face, as man converses with man, and grows fond of his fellow.

Before the incarnation, God was feared in his thunders, and adored in the majesty and magnificence of his works. But it is in the meek and lowly Jesus that he becomes the object of affection; in the bleeding, the suffering, the dying Jesus, we behold him with weeping gratitude, we love him with a love of passion and burning, a love that languishes for him, that cannot bear to exist without him.

How could that perverse people shut their eyes to the divinity of their gracious Messiah, while he gave such hourly and ocular proofs of the power and extent of his Godhead in and over all things? while he went about doing good, carrying healing in his breath, in his touch, in his garments; while the lamb sprang up as a bounding roe at his bidding; while the tempest heard his voice and was still, and the sea spread itself as a carpet beneath the foot of its Creator; while the deaf ear was opened, and the dumb tongue loosed to utterance; while he poured the beams of his light upon the new opening eyes of the blind-born gazer; and while in death, and amidst the tombs, his word was life and resurrection.

Thus, my Harry, you find yourself united to your Saviour by many endearing and intimate connections; by creation, by redemption, by brotherhood, by fatherhood, in the flesh, in the spirit; by his being bone of your bone, and spirit of your spirit; by being the "first born of many brethren," and by being the divine father of a new and celestial progeny.

But what need we further? the world, from the beginning, is fraught with him, and speaks of him. The world is, in it-

self, no other than a history of the two capital and eternally important truths, THE GREATNESS OF THE FALL in *Lucifer* and *Adam*, and THE GREATNESS OF THE REDEMPTION in *Jesus Christ*. These truths are engraven in the rocks as deep as the centre ; they are written on both sides of every leaf in nature. All that is within us, all that is without us, utters forth the same language, proclaims the same tidings aloud. All ceremonials, all institutions of divine authority, all ancient predictions and prophecies, were pregnant with, and in travail of the GREAT DELIVERANCE to be atchieved by the *Shiloh* who was to come. They give us a previous history of his whole process upon earth, from his birth to his resurrection, as circumstantially, as minutely as though it were a bare transcript of what had recently passed before their eyes. But I shall only dwell a minute on three principal articles ;—first, that Messiah was to be God ;—secondly, that he was however to be a suffering Messiah ;—and, thirdly, that he was to give himself to death for the salvation of sinners.

FIRST, with respect to his Divinity, Daniel says, “ I saw in the night-visions,
 “ and behold one like unto the SON OF
 “ MAN came with the clouds of heaven,
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“ and came to the Ancient of days,
 “ and they brought him near before him.
 “ And there was given him DOMINION,
 “ and GLORY, and a KINGDOM, that all
 “ people, nations, and languages, should
 “ serve him; his DOMINION is an EVER-
 “ LASTING DOMINION, which shall not
 “ pass away.” Again Isaiah: “ Behold
 “ a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.
 “ For unto us a child is born, unto us a
 “ son is given, and the government shall
 “ be upon his shoulder; and his name
 “ shall be called WONDERFUL, COUN-
 “ SELLOR, The MIGHTY GOD, The
 “ EVERLASTING FATHER, The PRINCE
 “ OF PEACE. Of the increase of his GO-
 “ VERNMENT and PEACE there shall be
 “ no end, upon the throne of David,
 “ and upon his kingdom, to order it
 “ and to establish it, with JUDGEMENT
 “ and with JUSTICE, from henceforth
 “ EVEN FOR EVER.”

SECONDLY, with respect to his charac-
 ter of rejection and suffering: “ Who
 “ hath believed our report? and to whom
 “ is the arm of the Lord revealed? He
 “ is despised and rejected of men, a man
 “ of sorrows and acquainted with grief:
 “ and we hid as it were our faces from
 “ him; he was despised, and we esteem-
 “ ed him not. He was oppressed, and

“ he was afflicted : he is brought as a
 “ lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep
 “ before her shearers is dumb, so open-
 “ ed he not his mouth. He was taken
 “ from prison and from judgment ; and
 “ who shall declare his generation ? for
 “ he was cut off out of the land of the
 “ living ; for the transgression of my
 “ people was he stricken. And he made
 “ his grave with the wicked, and with
 “ the rich in his death.” Isaiah liii.—

David too says, “ Dogs have compassed
 “ me, the assembly of the wicked have
 “ inclosed me ; they pierced my hands
 “ and my feet. They part my garments
 “ among them, and cast lots for my
 “ vesture.—But a bone of him shall not
 “ be broken.—They shall look on him
 “ whom they pierced.”

THIRDLY, with respect to his being
 a willing offering for sin : Isaiah says, in
 the same chapter ; “ Surely he hath borne
 “ our griefs, and carried our sorrows ;
 “ yet we did esteem him stricken, smit-
 “ ten of God, and afflicted. But he
 “ was wounded for our transgressions, he
 “ was bruised for our iniquities ; the
 “ chastisement of our peace was upon him,
 “ and with his stripes we are healed.
 “ All we like sheep have gone astray ;
 “ we have turned every one to his own

“ way, and the Lord hath laid on him
“ the iniquity of us all. Jeremiah too”—

Here Mr Fenton was interrupted. His man Frank entered, booted, and all bespattered with dirt, and having whispered something in his master's ear, Mr Fenton turned aside his head, to hide his concern from Harry, and stepping to his closet locked himself in.

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.



